



Administration for Children and Families

Administration on Children, Youth and Families - Family and Youth Services Bureau

Maternity Group Home Program
HHS-2019-ACF-ACYF-CX-1577
Application Due Date: 07/25/2019

Maternity Group Home Program
HHS-2019-ACF-ACYF-CX-1577
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**Department of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children and Families**

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Funding Opportunity Title: | Maternity Group Home Program |
| Announcement Type: | Initial |
| Funding Opportunity Number: | HHS-2019-ACF-ACYF-CX-1577 |
| Primary CFDA Number: | 93.550 |
| Due Date for Applications: | 07/25/2019 |

Executive Summary

Notice:

- **Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the entire funding opportunity announcement (FOA) carefully and observe the application formatting requirements listed in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission*. For more information on applying for grants, please visit "How to Apply for a Grant" on the ACF Grants & Funding Page at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto>.**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) supports organizations and communities that work every day to put an end to youth homelessness, adolescent pregnancy, and domestic violence. FYSB works toward a future in which all of the nation's youth, individuals, and families - no matter what challenges they may face - can live healthy, productive, violence-free lives. The purpose of FYSB's Maternity Group Home (MGH) grant program is to provide safe, stable, and appropriate shelter for pregnant and/or parenting youth ages 16 to under 22 and their young families for 18 months and, under extenuating circumstances, up to 21 months who are experiencing homelessness.

I. Program Description

Statutory Authority

Title III, part B, section 321 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (34 U.S.C. 11221)

Description

FYSB's RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAM

ACF, through ACYF's FYSB, is committed to safety, permanency, well-being, and self-sufficiency for runaway and homeless youth and young adults who cannot live safely with a parent, legal guardian, or relative, and who have no other safe alternative living arrangement.

FYSB's Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program promotes a strengths-based approach, which emphasizes youth's self-determination and strengths. The program provides a meaningful

framework to consistently support youth in identifying strengths and learning to use those strengths towards personal growth, development, and success. This Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework is essential to ensure a young person has a sense of safety and structure, belonging and membership, self-worth and social contribution, independence and control over one's life, and closeness in interpersonal relationships. The RHY Program helps youth learn the necessary skills to develop plans for the future, to set goals and promotes increasing youth leadership capacity through intentional projects and activities.

FYSB continues to support projects to increase prevention and awareness of human trafficking (i.e., sex and labor) within RHY Programs. These ongoing efforts seek to minimize sexual exploitation and trafficking incidents among runaway and homeless youth, equip programs with the necessary tools to prevent these incidents, and identify youth who are victims of trafficking or at-risk of becoming victims.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In a 12-month period, estimates of homelessness among youth in the United States indicate that approximately one in 10 young adults ages 18 to 25, and at least one in 30 adolescent minors ages 13 to 17, endures some form of homelessness. Further, it has been reported that unmarried parenting youth had a 200 percent higher risk of homelessness. [1] Pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness not only need basic necessities like food and shelter for their young families, but also must learn to be effective and affectionate parents.

Today, FYSB funds the Maternity Group Home (MGH) Program as part of the Transitional Living Program (TLP), under the provisions of the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-378).

Pursuant to section 322(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), projects must "...establish, strengthen, or fund a transitional living youth project for homeless youth," and "...develop an adequate plan to ensure proper referral of homeless youth to social service, law enforcement, educational (including post-secondary education) and vocational training (including services and programs for youth available under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (or most recently, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Pub. L 113-128)), and welfare (including programs under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996), legal service, and health care programs. The projects are required to help integrate and coordinate such services for youths."

Grantees providing maternity-related care services, pursuant to section 1351.25 of the RHY Rule, must provide the opportunity to develop parenting skills, child-care, child development education, and health and nutrition services.

Pursuant to section 302(3) of the RHYA, "Congress finds that services to such young people should be developed and provided using a positive youth development approach..."

PROJECT GOAL AND VISION

Goal: The primary goal of the MGH is to promote long-term, economic independence to ensure the well-being of youth and young families, and preventing intergenerational poverty by strengthening their family.

Vision: Successfully transition pregnant and parenting youth who are experiencing homelessness into adulthood through the promotion of self-sufficient living and the prevention

of long-term dependency on social services.

Performance Standards

The RHY Rule establishes RHY Program Performance Standards as measures of successful outcomes for youth. The Performance Standards are used to monitor project performance in achieving the purposes of the RHYA.

The RHY Rule requires MGH grantees to collect data that demonstrate their ability to meet the Performance Standards described in section 1351.31. Specifically, MGH projects are responsible for consistently enhancing short-term outcomes for youth in four core outcome areas: 1) social and emotional well-being; 2) permanent connections; 3) education or employment; and 4) safe and stable housing.

Through the provision of shelter and services, indicators of improvements include, but are not limited to:

1. Social and Emotional Well-Being: Pregnant and/or parenting youth will connect to system of trauma-informed care providers to promote positive and healthy messages for youth and their children who are experiencing homelessness, and MGH recipients will assist youth with improved physical, dental, and mental health for themselves and their young families.

2. Permanent Connections: Pregnant and/or parenting youth will experience positive ongoing attachments to families, communities, schools, and other social networks. In addition, pregnant and/or parenting youth will have developed healthy family engagement strategies and co-parenting skills.

3. Education or Employment: Youth or pregnant and parenting youth will connect to schools, including post-secondary education or vocational training programs, and demonstrate improvement in interviewing skills, job attainment skills, and employment. They will also connect with Head Start, and other community resources which promote early childhood development and learning, as well as wrap around child-care services to ensure stable employment.

4. Safe and Stable Housing: Pregnant and/or parenting youth and their young families will transition to safe and stable housing that appropriately matches their level of need after leaving a MGH.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

All MGH projects MUST provide shelter AND supportive services. Choosing one or the other is not optional.

Safe, stable, and appropriate shelter

MGH Projects must provide safe and stable housing (i.e., host homes, supervised apartments, group homes, and/or shelter) throughout a continuous period not to exceed 540 days. In exceptional circumstances, housing may continue to 635 days. A young person who has not reached 18 years of age on the last day of the 635-day period may, in exceptional circumstances and if otherwise qualified for the program, remain in the program until their 18th birthday.

MGH Projects will have an agreement and/or linkage with an age-appropriate and family

friendly, emergency shelter in circumstances when there are no current MGH openings.

MGH Projects will provide direct, on-site supervision at each shelter facility that is not a family host home. Shelter facilities will have a ratio of staff to youth that is sufficient to ensure all pregnant and/or parenting homeless youth and their dependent children receive adequate supervision and services. The shelter facility will have the capacity to accommodate a minimum of four and not more than 20 individuals (excluding staff). Shelter staff will be trained to interact with youth victims of trafficking or other similar traumatic experiences. Transportation to the shelter should be available, as needed, and barriers to entry should be low enough that it is easily accessible by youth.

Each youth and the infant/child will have a bed of its own. In addition, the facility will ensure accommodations that will limit the risk of injuries associated with falling, burning, electrical hazards, and have safe bath and tub space.

Finally, each MGH Project must ensure youth have safe and appropriate exits when leaving the program.

Comprehensive pregnant and/or parenting youth-centered services model

Social and emotional well-being and strength-based approach: The MGH Projects use a trauma-informed approach, which involves understanding and responding to the symptoms of chronic, interpersonal trauma and traumatic stress, as well as the behavioral consequences of trauma. MGHs also utilize a PYD approach that includes healthy messages, safe and structured places, adult role models, skills development, and opportunities to serve others. In addition, MGH programs will work with parenting youth to ensure their children are treated with trauma-informed care to reduce intergenerational trauma and adverse childhood experiences.

In addition to standard TLP comprehensive services, MGH Projects must provide the following:

- **Record Keeping and Case Management for Infant/Toddler:** MGH Projects must create a separate file for the young person's infant or child. At a minimum, information contained in the file should include record of well-care visits, sensory and developmental screenings and assessments.
- **Child-Care Plan:** A project's child-care plan links youth to safe, affordable, and accessible child-care and early childhood development services so that the youth can complete education and employment goals. This should also include procedures for child-care referral and other early childhood development linkages such as Early Intervention strategies for child(ren) with suspected or identified delays or disabilities.
- **Parenting Skills:** MGH Projects must promote positive, parenting practices; opportunities for families to engage in activities that promote positive, parent-child bonding and other interactions; and support to address parenting challenges and barriers. In addition, father engagement and responsible fatherhood strategies should be used, when appropriate, including instances of co-parenting.
- **Child Development:** Child development is typically defined as a normal progression by which children change as they grow older by acquiring and refining knowledge, behaviors, and skills. Child development generally involves observing/assessing five

specific areas: motor/physical, cognitive, social/emotional, communication/language, and self-help/adaptive.

- **Family Budgeting:** Credit counseling, household budgeting, banking, and home ownership.
- **Health and Nutrition:** MGH Projects must ensure youth receive consistent pre-natal care, infants receive well-baby exams and immunizations, and data are reported. In addition, they must receive instruction in understanding healthy diets, meal planning, and grocery shopping.
- **Parenting curricula:** MGH Projects will utilize an evidence-based parenting curricula and materials to assist in improving parent and child outcomes; to ensure that young parents and child(ren) are safe and thriving and are forming positive parental child attachments; to support parents as lifelong-learners and educators; to develop advocacy and leadership skills, and to help them become contributing members in the communities in which they reside (Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/pfce-interactive-framework>).

Outreach Plan: MGH Projects will actively find pregnant and/or parenting runaway, homeless, street youth, or youth at-risk of becoming runaway or homeless. This includes youth who might not use RHY program services because they lack awareness or active avoidance. Projects will provide information to them about services and benefits, and encourage the use of appropriate services.

Gateway Services: When necessary and appropriate to facilitate the delivery of required MGH shelter and services, projects must provide food, drink, clothing, items suitable for an infant or toddler, hygiene supplies, and personal safety information (e.g., national youth hotlines, local hotlines) to promote a safe and healthy environment. Simultaneously, workers must build trust with youth to aid them in achieving success in the program.

Intake Screening Tools: MGH Projects will implement standardized methods to assess eligibility and the services required to meet the immediate needs of the client and their young family, such as physical health, potential victimization (e.g., sex trafficking, labor trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, sexual assault), behavioral health, connection to family, safety, access to resources, issues of neglect or abuse and other risk and protective factors affecting well-being and sustainable living that will guide identification, assistance, and referral for delivery of appropriate services (e.g., coordinated entry). Any screening tools used must identify the unique needs of runaway and homeless youth and their young families.

Assessment Tools: MGH Projects will complete periodic ongoing assessment to ensure interventions are meeting a youth's needs, particularly if a youth remains homeless for a long period of time. In addition, MGH providers will complete a thorough assessment of pregnant and parenting youth and children in care within 30 days of intake. In addition, MGH programs will assess the health and wellness of the children of parenting youth.

Continuum Service Linkages: Projects must coordinate with other resources such as government, non-profits, other outreach teams, and service providers, to ensure the ability to

serve the runaway and homeless youth population.

Case Management: MGH Projects will identify and assess the needs of the client and, as appropriate, arrange, coordinate, monitor, evaluate, and advocate for a package of services to meet the specific needs of the client and young families. (45 CFR § 1351.1) The following list includes specific programmatic requirements for case management planning for youth and MGH Projects:

- **Individualized Service or Treatment Plan:** MGH Projects will develop, with every youth receiving services, a written service or treatment plan based on the youth's goals that includes evidence-informed strategies to assist with the trajectory of achieving sustainable living with their children.
- **Service Coordination Plan:** MGH Projects must work with other providers to provide wrap around services and a coordinated continuum of care. Projects must have a suitable referral plan based on an assessment of youth needs to ensure appropriate system of care services are accessible. A list of the system of care services may include social services; law enforcement; educational services; vocational training; welfare; legal services; anti-trafficking agencies; health care programs (for pregnant/parenting youth and child), including health insurance options; affordable childcare; and/or child education programs. In addition, projects will take steps to ensure that youth who are under the legal jurisdiction of the juvenile justice or child welfare systems receive services from those systems until such time as they are released from the jurisdiction of those systems.

Referrals should also include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Child Care; Head Start; Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and other related family/child support services. Pursuant to section 1351.23(b) of the RHY Rule, RHY projects will inform the National Runaway Safeline, the RHY Program's National Communication System, about resources and how to connect youth in need with those resources.

Transitional Living Plan: MGH Projects will provide every youth a written transitional living plan that meets their level of need for a safe and stable living environment after program exit. This should ensure the youth has access to important documents and paperwork (e.g., birth certificate, social security card, driver's license or state identification card, medical records, credit reports).

Aftercare Planning: Projects will plan to provide additional services for at least three (3) months beyond the period of residential stay that offer continuous and supportive follow-up to youth and their family that was served by the program. A young family's aftercare plan must be provided to the youth in exit counseling or before, and must outline what services were provided. It will also include appropriate referrals for needed health care services, including referrals and counseling on insurance coverage through family health care insurance plans or to agencies that assist in enrolling persons in Medicaid or other publicly available insurance plans. The young family's aftercare plan should track the youth's housing status, educational services, and the rate of participation and completion of the services in the plan beyond three (3) months, if services are still provided.

The aftercare plan includes, but is not limited to:

- Contact with youth who leave the program in order to ensure the ongoing safety of their young family and access to services;
- Assist youth in overcoming barriers that may interfere with the achievement of their goals;
- Provide proactive and reactive strategies to encourage retention in education, employment, housing, and other key areas;
- Provide supportive services to assist in advancement to better jobs or postsecondary education and training; and
- Help youth find solutions for employment, education, housing, and personal issues.

Sustainability Plan

Successful MGH Projects plan for project sustainability from the beginning of the project design and revisit and revise the plan throughout the life of the project. These plans include:

- *Sustainability* through diversification of funding to continue services in the event of a loss of FYSB funding, as well as plans to address staff retention, and staff turnover;
- *Accountability* in meeting FYSB's four core outcome areas and performance standards; and
- *Collaboration* through building meaningful partnerships with other service agencies in the community and becoming co-laborers in the field.

Subawards

Subrecipients must meet the eligibility requirements in *Section III.1. Eligible Applicants*. Additionally, all subrecipients must obtain a DUNS number if they do not have one already and they must have an active registration with System for Award Management (SAM). See *Section IV.3 Unique Entity Identify and System for Award Management (SAM)*.

The recipient must serve as the lead entity responsible for coordinating the delivery of all required services. The recipient must have a process for selecting subrecipients and an assessment of any potential financial or programmatic risks associated with entering into a programmatic and financial relationship with the identified subrecipient(s).

Grant recipients may elect to subaward a portion of funds (not more than 75 percent of the total award amount) to eligible organizations for the purpose of carrying out the Project Requirements.

Grant recipients are responsible for ensuring all RHY Program requirements specified in the RHYA and RHY Rule, as well as the specific Project Requirements stated in this FOA, are fully implemented. It is also the responsibility of the recipient to implement oversight and performance monitoring procedures to ensure subrecipient(s) compliance and performance with all applicable RHY Program and Project Requirements. Recipients of an award who subaward must, at a minimum, abide by 45 CFR 75.351-.353.

Recipients of an award under this FOA will be legally accountable to ACF for performance of the project or program. See *Section V.2 Review and Selection Process*.

Other conditions related to the recipient/subrecipient relationship include:

- Recipients may be required to report under the Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA).
- All Funding Restrictions that apply to the recipient will apply to the subrecipient. See *Section IV.6 Funding Restrictions*.
- If recipients have not secured subrecipients by the time of the award, they must do so within 90 days from the start of the project, unless specified otherwise, and must notify ACF when the subrecipients are known.

References

[1] Morton, M.H., Dworsky, A., & Samuels, G.M. (2017). *Missed opportunities: Youth homelessness in America*. National estimates. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

II. Federal Award Information

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Funding Instrument Type: | Grant |
| Estimated Total Funding: | \$4,500,000 |
| Expected Number of Awards: | 18 |
| Award Ceiling: | \$250,000 Per Budget Period |
| Award Floor: | \$100,000 Per Budget Period |
| Average Projected Award Amount: | \$175,000 Per Budget Period |
| Anticipated Project Start Date: | 09/30/2019 |

Length of Project Periods:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Length of Project Period: | 36-month project period with three 12-month budget periods |
|---------------------------|--|

Additional Information on Awards:

Awards made under this announcement are subject to the availability of federal funds.

Applications requesting an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period, or per project period, as stated in this section, will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period. Please see *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors*.

Note: For those programs that require matching or cost sharing, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period or by project period for fully funded awards, even if

the projected commitment exceeds the required amount of match or cost share. **A recipient's failure to provide the required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds.** See *Section III.2.* of this announcement for information on cost-sharing or matching requirements.

Continuation of Project

An initial grant award will be for a 12-month budget period. The award of continuation grants beyond the initial 12-month budget period will be subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress on the part of the grantee, and a determination that the continued funding would be in the best interest of the federal government.

Please see *Section IV.6 Funding Restrictions* for limitations on the use of federal funds awarded under this announcement.

III. Eligibility Information

III.1. Eligible Applicants

The Secretary is authorized to make grants and to provide technical assistance to public and non-profit private entities and coordinated networks of such entities to establish and operate transitional living youth projects for homeless youth. For-profit organizations are not eligible. Private institutions of higher education must be non-profit entities.

In selecting eligible applicants to receive grants under this FOA, priority will be given to applicants who have experience in providing shelter and services youth experiencing homelessness and their young families as required by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities are not eligible and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. See *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors.*

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this funding opportunity announcement.

See *Section IV.2. Legal Status of Applicant Entity* for documentation required to support eligibility.

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement: Yes

Grantees are required to meet a non-federal share of the project cost, in accordance with 383 of the RHY ACT, 34 U.S.C. 11274.

Grantees must provide at least 10 percent of the total approved cost of the project. The total approved cost of the project is the sum of the ACF (federal) share and the non-federal share. The non-federal share may be met by cash or in-kind contributions, although applicants are

encouraged to meet their match requirements through cash contributions. For example, in order to meet the match requirements, a project requesting \$250,000.00 in ACF (federal) funds must provide a non-federal share of the approved total project cost of at least \$27,778.00 , which is 10 percent of total approved project cost of \$277,778.00 .

For all federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the recipient’s cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the criteria listed in 45 CFR 75.306.

For awards that require matching by statute, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards, even if the projected commitment exceeds the amount required by the statutory match. **A recipient’s failure to provide the statutorily required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

For awards that do not require matching or cost sharing by statute, where “cost sharing” refers to any situation in which the recipient voluntarily shares in the costs of a project other than as statutorily required matching, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards. These include situations in which contributions are voluntarily proposed by an applicant and are accepted by ACF. Non-federal cost sharing will be included in the approved project budget so that the applicant will be held accountable for proposed non-federal cost-sharing funds as shown in the Notice of Award (NOA). **A recipient’s failure to provide voluntary cost sharing of non-federal resources that have been accepted by ACF as part of the approved project costs and that have been shown as part of the approved project budget in the NOA, may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

The federal share of the TLP/MGH project represents 90 percent of the total project cost supported by the federal government. The remaining 10 percent represents the required project match cost by the grantee. This may be a cash or in-kind contribution.

For examples of matching requirements based on specific award amounts, see sample Chart of Matching Funding Amounts below.

Sample Chart of Matching Funding Amounts

| Federal Amount | Non-Federal Share | Total Project Cost for 12-month period |
|----------------|-------------------|--|
| \$100,000 | \$11,111 | \$111,111 |
| \$125,000 | \$13,625 | \$138,625 |
| \$150,000 | \$16,350 | \$166,350 |

| | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| \$175,000 | \$19,444 | \$194,444 |
| \$200,000 | \$22,222 | \$222,222 |

Matching Waiver Pursuant to 48 U.S.C. § 1469a(d)

Matching requirements (including in-kind contributions) of less than \$200,000 (up to \$199,999) are waived under grants made to the governments of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (other than those consolidated under other provisions of 48 U.S.C. 1469) pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d). This waiver applies whether the matching required under the grant equals or exceeds \$200,000.

III.3. Other

Application Disqualification Factors

Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities are not eligible and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Award Ceiling Disqualification

Applications that request an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period or per project period ("per project period" refers only to fully funded awards), as stated in *Section II. Federal Award Information*, will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period.

Required Electronic Application Submission

ACF requires electronic submission of applications at www.Grants.gov. **Paper applications received from applicants that have not been approved for an exemption from required electronic submission will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.**

Applicants that do not have an Internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents to the Internet may contact ACF for an exemption that will allow the applicant to submit applications in paper format. Information and the requirements for requesting an exemption from required electronic application submission are found in "ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Electronic Application Submission" at www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto#chapter-6.

Missing the Application Deadline (Late Applications)

The deadline for electronic application submission is 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date listed in the Overview and in Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times. Electronic applications

submitted to www.Grants.gov after 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date, as indicated by a dated and time-stamped email from www.Grants.gov, will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. That is, applications submitted to www.Grants.gov, on or after 12:00 a.m., ET, on the day after the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Applications submitted to www.Grants.gov at any time during the open application period, and prior to the due date and time, which fail the www.Grants.gov validation check, will not be received at, or acknowledged by, ACF.

Each time an application is submitted via www.Grants.gov, the submission will generate a new date and time-stamp email notification. Only those applications with on-time date and time stamps that result in a validated application, which is transmitted to ACF, will be acknowledged.

The deadline for receipt of paper applications is 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date listed in the Overview and in Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times. Paper applications received after 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. **Paper applications received from applicants that have not received approval of an exemption from required electronic submission will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.**

Notification of Application Disqualification

Applicants will be notified of a disqualification determination by email or by USPS postal mail within 30 federal business days from the closing date of this FOA.

IV. Application and Submission Information

IV.1. Address to Request Application Package

FYSB Operations Center
c/o F2-Solutions
Attn: Maternity Group Home FOA
1401 Mercantile Lane
Suite 401
Largo, MD 20774
Phone: 1-855-792-6551
Email: TechAssist@fysb.net

Electronic Application Submission:

The electronic application submission package is available in the FOA's listing at www.Grants.gov.

Applications in Paper Format:

For applicants that have received an exemption to submit applications in paper format, Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available in the "Select Grant Opportunity Package" available in the FOA's Grants.gov Synopsis under the Package tab at www.Grants.gov. See *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission* if applicants do not have an Internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents (files) to www.Grants.gov.

Federal Relay Service:

Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) for assistance at www.gsa.gov/fedrelay.

IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission**FORMATTING APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS**

Each applicant applying electronically via www.Grants.gov is required to upload only two electronic files, excluding Standard Forms and OMB-approved forms. No more than two files will be accepted for the review, and additional files will be removed. Standard Forms and OMB-approved forms will not be considered additional files.

FOR ALL APPLICATIONS:**Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)**

AOR is the designated representative of the applicant/recipient organization with authority to act on the organization's behalf in matters related to the award and administration of grants. In signing a grant application, this individual agrees that the organization will assume the obligations imposed by applicable Federal statutes and regulations and other terms and conditions of the award, including any assurances, if a grant is awarded.

Point of Contact

In addition to the AOR, a point of contact on matters involving the application must also be identified. The point of contact, known as the Project Director or Principal Investigator, should not be identical to the person identified as the AOR. The point of contact must be available to answer any questions pertaining to the application.

Application Checklist

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials.

Accepted Font Style

Applications must be in Times New Roman (TNR), 12-point font, except for footnotes, which may be TNR 10-point font. Pages that contain blurred text, or text that is too small to read comfortably, will be removed.

English Language

Applications must be submitted in the English language and must be in the terms of United

States (U.S.) dollars. If applications are submitted using another currency, ACF will convert the foreign currency to U.S. currency using the date of receipt of the application to determine the rate of exchange.

Page Limitations

Applicants must observe the page limitation(s) listed under "PAGE LIMITATIONS AND CONTENT FOR ALL SUBMISSION FORMATS:". Page limitation(s) do not include SFs and OMB-approved forms.

All applications must be double-spaced. An application that exceeds the cited page limitation for double-spaced pages in the Project Description file or the Appendices file will have the last extra pages removed and the removed pages will not be reviewed.

Application Elements Exempted from Double-Spacing Requirements

The following elements of the application submission are exempt from the double-spacing requirements and may be single-spaced: the table of contents, the one-page Project Summary/Abstract, required Assurances and Certifications, required SFs, required OMB-approved forms, resumes, logic models, proof of legal status/non-profit status, third-party agreements, letters of support, footnotes, tables, the line-item budget and/or the budget justification.

Adherence to FOA Formatting, Font, and Page Limitation Requirements

Applications that fail to adhere to ACF's FOA formatting, font, and page limitation requirements will be adjusted by the removal of page(s) from the application. Pages will be removed before the objective review. The removed page(s) will not be made available to reviewers.

Applications that have more than one scanned page of a document on a single page will have the page(s) removed from the review.

For applicants that submit paper applications, double-sided pages will be counted as two pages. When the maximum allowed number of pages is reached, excess pages will be removed and will not be made available to reviewers.

NOTE: Applicants failing to adhere to ACF's FOA formatting, font, and page limitation requirements will receive a letter from ACF notifying them that their application was amended. The letter will be sent after awards have been issued and will specify the reason(s) for removal of page(s).

Corrections/Updates to Submitted Applications

When applicants make revisions to a previously submitted application, ACF will accept only the last on-time application for pre-review under the Application Disqualification Factors. The Application Disqualification Factors determine the application's acceptance for competitive review. See *Section III.3. Application Disqualification Factors* and *Section IV.2. Application Submission Options*.

Copies Required

Applicants must submit one complete copy of the application package electronically. Applicants submitting electronic applications need not provide additional copies of their application package.

Applicants submitting applications in paper format must submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all Standard Forms and OMB-approved forms. The original copy must have original signatures.

Signatures

Applicants submitting electronic applications must follow the registration and application submission instructions provided at www.Grants.gov.

The original of a paper format application must include original signatures of the authorized representatives.

Accepted Application Format

With the exception of the required Standard Forms (SFs) and OMB-approved forms, all application materials must be formatted so that they are 8 ½" x 11" white paper with 1-inch margins all around.

If possible, applicants are encouraged to include page numbers for each page within the application.

ACF generally does not encourage submission of scanned documents as they tend to have reduced clarity and readability. If documents must be scanned, the font size on any scanned documents must be large enough so that it is readable. Documents must be scanned page-for-page, meaning that applicants may not scan more than one page of a document onto a single page. Pages with blurred text will be removed from the application.

PAGE LIMITATIONS AND CONTENT FOR ALL SUBMISSION FORMATS:

With the exception of SFs and forms approved by the OMB, the application submission is **limited to 75 pages** in its entirety. The two files applicants must submit are:

The **Project Description** file must include these items:

1. Table of Contents
2. Abstract
3. Need for Assistance
4. Approach
5. Logic Model/Theory of Change
6. Organizational Capacity
7. Program Performance Evaluation Plan
8. Line Item Budget and Budget Justification (to include plan for oversight of federal award funds)

The **Appendices** file must include these items:

1. Certifications and Assurances
2. Legal Status of Applicant Entity
3. Third-party Agreements
4. Organizational Chart and Resumes (no more than 2 page length for key staff on the proposed project)
5. Indirect Cost Rate Letter (if applicable)

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically unless they have requested and received an exemption that will allow submission in paper format. See *Section IV.2. Application Submission Options* for information about requesting an exemption.

Electronic applications will only be accepted via www.Grants.gov. **ACF will not accept applications submitted via email or via facsimile.**

Each applicant is required to upload ONLY two electronic files, excluding SFs and OMB-approved forms.

File One: Must contain the entire Project Description, and the Budget and Budget Justification (including a line-item budget and a budget narrative).

File Two: Must contain all documents required in the Appendices.

Adherence to the Two-File Requirement

No more than two files will be accepted for the review. Applications with additional files will be amended and files will be removed from the review. SFs and OMB-approved forms will not be considered additional files.

Application Upload Requirements

ACF strongly recommends that electronic applications be uploaded as Portable Document Files (PDFs). One file must contain the entire Project Description and Budget Justification; the other file must contain all documents required in the Appendices. Details on the content of each of the two files, as well as page limitations, are listed earlier in this section.

To adhere to the two-file requirement, applicants may need to convert and/or merge documents together using a PDF converter software. Many recent versions of Microsoft Office include the ability to save documents to the PDF format without need of additional software. Applicants using the Adobe Professional software suite will be able to merge these documents together. ACF recommends merging documents electronically rather than scanning multiple documents into one document manually, as scanned documents may have reduced clarity and readability.

Applicants must ensure that the version of Adobe Professional they are using is compatible with Grants.gov. To verify Adobe software compatibility please go to Grants.gov and click on

“Support” at the top bar menu and select “Adobe Software Compatibility,” which is listed under the topic “Online Answers.” The Adobe verification process allows applicants to test their version of the software by opening a test application package. Grants.gov also includes guidance on how to download a supported version of Adobe, as well as troubleshooting instructions for use, if an applicant is unable to open the test application package.

The Adobe Software Compatibility page located on Grants.gov also provides guidance for applicants that have received error messages while attempting to save an application package. It also addresses local network and/or computer security settings and the impact this has on use of Adobe software.

Required Standard Forms (SFs) and OMB-approved Forms

Standard Forms (SFs) and OMB-approved forms, such as the SF-424 application and budget forms and the SF-P/PSL (Project/Performance Site Location), are uploaded separately at Grants.gov. These forms are submitted separately from the Project Description and Appendices files. See *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* for the listing of required Standard Forms, OMB-approved forms, and required assurances and certifications.

Naming Application Submission Files

Carefully observe the file naming conventions required by www.Grants.gov. Limit file names to 50 characters (characters and spaces). Special characters that are allowed under Grants.gov’s naming conventions, and are accommodated by ACF’s systems, are listed in the instructions available in the "Select Grant Opportunity Package" at Grants.gov. Please also see <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/submitting-utf-8-special-characters.html>.

Use only file formats supported by ACF

It is critical that applicants submit applications using only the supported file formats listed here. While ACF supports all of the following file formats, **we strongly recommend that the two application submission files (Project Description and Appendices) are uploaded as PDF documents in order to comply with the two file upload limitation.** Documents in file formats that are not supported by ACF will be removed from the application and will not be used in the competitive review. This may make the application incomplete and ACF will not make any awards based on an incomplete application.

ACF supports the following file formats:

- Adobe PDF – Portable Document Format (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Corel WordPerfect (.wpd)
- Image Formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Do Not Encrypt or Password-Protect the Electronic Application Files

If ACF cannot access submitted electronic files because they are encrypted or password

protected, the affected file will be removed from the application and will not be reviewed. This removal may make the application incomplete and ACF will not make awards based on an incomplete application.

FORMATTING FOR PAPER APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS:

The following requirements are only applicable to applications submitted in paper format. Applicants must receive an exemption from ACF in order for a paper format application to be accepted for review. For more information on the exemption, see "*ACF Policy on Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*" at www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto#chapter-6

Format Requirements for Paper Applications

All copies of mailed or hand-delivered paper applications must be submitted in a single package. If an applicant is submitting multiple applications under a single FOA, or multiple applications under separate FOAs, each application submission must be packaged separately. The package(s) must be clearly labeled for the specific FOA it addresses by FOA title and by Funding Opportunity Number (FON).

Applicants using paper format should download the application forms package associated with the FOA's Synopsis on www.Grants.gov under the Package tab.

Because each application will be duplicated, do not use or include separate covers, binders, clips, tabs, plastic inserts, maps, brochures, or any other items that cannot be processed easily on a photocopy machine with an automatic feed. Do not bind, clip, staple, or fasten in any way separate sections of the application. Applicants are advised that the copies of the application submitted, not the original, will be reproduced by the federal government for review. **All application materials must be one-sided for duplication purposes. All pages in the application submission must be sequentially numbered.**

Addresses for Submission of Paper Applications

See *Section IV.7. Other Submission Requirements* for addresses for paper format application submissions.

Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications

Applicants seeking grant or cooperative agreement awards under this announcement must submit the listed Standard Forms (SFs), assurances, and certifications with the application. All required Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available in the Application Package posted for this FOA at www.Grants.gov.

| Forms / Assurances / Certifications | Submission Requirement | Notes / Description |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| SF-Project/Performance | Submission is required for all applicants by the application | Required for all applications. In the SF-P/PSL, applicants must cite their |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL) | due date. | primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites. |
| SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance | Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date. | Required for all applications. |
| SF-424A - Budget Information - Non- Construction Programs and SF- 424B - Assurances - Non- Construction Programs | Submission is required for all applicants when applying for a non-construction project. Standard Forms must be used. Forms must be submitted by the application due date. By signing and submitting the SF-424B, applicants are making the appropriate certification of their compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. | Required for all applications when applying for a non-construction project. |
| Certification Regarding Lobbying (Grants.gov Lobbying Form) | Submission required of all applicants with the application package. If it is not submitted with the application package, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant. | Submission of the certification is required for all applicants. |
| Unique Entity Identifier (DUNS) and Systems for Award Management (SAM) registration. | Required of all applicants. To obtain a DUNS number, go to http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform . Active registration at the Systems Award Management (SAM) website must be maintained throughout the application and project award period. SAM registration is available at http://www.sam.gov . | See <i>Section IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)</i> for more information. |
| SF-LLL - Disclosure | If submission of this form is | If any funds have been paid or will be |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|---|
| of Lobbying Activities | applicable, it is due at the time of application. If it is not available at the time of application, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant. | paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the applicant shall complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. |
|------------------------|--|---|

Mandatory Grant Disclosure

All applicants and recipients are required to submit, in writing, to the awarding agency and to the HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG), all information related to violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award. (Mandatory Disclosures, 45 CFR 75.113)

Disclosures must be sent in writing to:

The Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Grants Management, ATTN: Grants Management Specialist, 330 C Street, SW., Switzer Building, Corridor 3200, Washington, DC 20201

And to:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, ATTN: Mandatory Grant Disclosures, Intake Coordinator, 330 Independence Avenue, SW., Cohen Building, Room 5527, Washington, DC 20201

Fax: (202) 205-0604 (Include "Mandatory Grant Disclosures" in subject line) or

Email: MandatoryGranteeDisclosures@oig.hhs.gov

The Project Description

The Project Description Overview

Purpose

The project description provides the majority of information by which an application is evaluated and ranked in competition with other applications for available assistance. It should address the activity for which federal funds are being requested, and should be consistent with the goals and

objectives of the program as described in *Section I. Program Description*. Supporting documents should be included where they can present information clearly and succinctly. When appropriate, applicants should cite the evaluation criteria that are relevant to specific components of their project description. Awarding offices use this and other information in making their funding recommendations. It is important, therefore, that this information be included in the application in a manner that is clear and complete.

General Expectations and Instructions

Applicants should develop project descriptions that focus on outcomes and convey strategies for achieving intended performance. Project descriptions are evaluated on the basis of substance and measurable outcomes, not length. Extensive exhibits are not required. Cross-referencing should be used rather than repetition. Supporting information concerning activities that will not be directly funded by the grant or information that does not directly pertain to an integral part of the grant-funded activity should be placed in an appendix.

General Instructions for Preparing a Full Project Description

Introduction

Applicants must prepare the project description statement in accordance with the following instructions while being aware of the specified evaluation criteria in *Section V.1. Criteria*. The text options give a broad overview of what the project description should include while the evaluation criteria identify the measures that will be used to evaluate applications.

Table of Contents

List the contents of the application including corresponding page numbers. The table of contents must be single spaced and will be counted against the total page limitations.

Project Summary/Abstract

Provide a summary of the application's project description. The summary must be clear, accurate, concise, and without reference to other parts of the application. The abstract must include a brief description of the proposed grant project including the needs to be addressed, the proposed services, and the population group(s) to be served.

Please place the following at the top of the abstract:

- Project Title
- Applicant Name
- Address
- Contact Phone Numbers (Voice, Fax)
- E-Mail Address
- Web Site Address, if applicable

The project abstract must be single-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font, and limited to

one page in length. Additional pages will be removed and will not be reviewed.

Objectives And Need For Assistance

Clearly identify the physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, and/or other problem(s) requiring a solution. The need for assistance including the nature and scope of the problem must be demonstrated, and the principal and subordinate objectives of the project must be clearly and concisely stated; supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials from concerned interests other than the applicant, may be included. Any relevant data based on planning studies should be included or referred to in the endnotes/footnotes. Incorporate demographic data and participant/beneficiary information, as well as data describing the needs of the target population and the proposed service area as needed. When appropriate, a literature review should be used to support the objectives and needs described in this section.

Approach

Outline a plan of action that describes the scope and detail of how the proposed project will be accomplished. Applicants must account for all functions or activities identified in the application. Describe any design or technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social and/or community involvement in the project. Provide a list of organizations, cooperating entities, consultants, or other key individuals that will work on the project, along with a short description of the nature of their effort or contribution.

Cite potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing project goals and explain strategies that will be used to address these challenges.

The applicant should describe the ages and types of populations the MGH project is targeting for the program activities described under *Section I. Program Description, Project Goals and Vision*.

Additionally, the applicant calculates and details the cost-benefit (e.g., Return on Investment) of the MGH project in terms of where youth would otherwise be served without the MGH shelter and services. This includes a discussion of the associated costs if the project were not funded (e.g., human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, long-term homelessness, involvement with the legal system).

Applicants must detail the plan and approach to address each of the aspects listed in *Section I. Program Description, Project Requirements* that includes:

- Safe, stable, and appropriate shelter
- Comprehensive pregnant and/or parenting youth-centered services model

Applicants must discuss the proposed number of youth and their children served through shelter and supportive services as described in *Section I. Project Requirements*, as well as any obstacles or challenges they may face implementing the program.

Applicants should detail the proposed housing model, as described in *Section I. Project Requirements*. These guidelines will be used when housing the target populations. Indicate models and continuums of care available in the local community that ensure target populations

have access to all of the community's housing resources.

Where applicable, applicants should indicate where and how any collaborative partners/stakeholders assist and support the project's effort to serve any of these particular populations. Applicants should also discuss any partnership/referral plans your organization has for providing support to the MGH youth and their young families exiting the program, as described in *Section I. Project Requirements*. This includes specific details on referrals follow-up to determine whether the partnering agency actually provided support services for young families.

Applicants should describe their coordination with systems of care providers such as government, non-profits, and service providers to ensure their ability to serve the homeless youth and their young families after program exit.

CoCs are the leads in the process for data collection for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). An applicant with a proposed geographic area that spans more than one CoC must clearly describe a joint agreement by all Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) leads on the process for data collection and reporting among the covered CoCs.

Applicants with proposed geographic areas that do not belong to a CoC must clearly describe a plan to contact and work with another CoC's HMIS lead for data collection and reporting purposes.

Applicants will also provide a detailed plan for addressing the Program Administration Requirements (i.e., staff safety, background checks, emergency preparedness plan, licensing requirement, and training plan) as detailed in *Section VI.2 Administrative and National Policy Requirements*.

Logic Model/Theory of Change

The MGH project will be built around a fully realized Logic Model/Theory of Change (LM/TOC). The applicant will translate the goal and vision of the project into short, intermediate, and long-term outcomes. The LM/TOC will reflect how the program investments and proposed shelter and service activities, when combined, result in outputs that lead to successful outcomes.

Applicants will use the LM/TOC to guide the proposal narrative to communicate program planning and activities, continuous quality improvement (CQI), and program value, as it relates to the cost-benefits of the MGH in comparison to other youth serving programs/facilities (e.g., juvenile detention, foster care).

In addition to the LM chart, a corresponding narrative must be provided discussing how the project will operationalize the program plans and activities as communicated in the organization's proposed LM. This narrative will include a discussion of the project's planned Activities (shelter and services) and the Outputs realized as a result of providing MGH shelter and services. Additionally, applicants will explain how the Inputs (investments) and Activities (shelter and services) will link to achieving in the four core outcomes areas described in *Section I, Program Description*, and performance measures required under *Section VI. 3. Reporting*, and any additional outcomes the applicant establishes.

The chart below is for illustrative purposes with prepopulated information as an example of information applicants may consider in each category.

| INPUTS | ACTIVITIES What We Do | ACTIVITIES Who We Serve | OUTPUTS | SHORT TERM Outcomes | INTERMEDIATE Outcomes |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Resources Invested</i> | <i>Shelter Provided</i> | <i>Target Population Served</i> | <i># and % of Youth In Shelter</i> | <i># and % of Youth in Stable Housing</i> | <i># and % of Youth Living Independently</i> |

For the purposes of this FOA, FYSB defines the LM outcomes in the following manner:

- *Long-Term Outcomes* are outcomes that speak to a desired condition of the youth served.
- *Intermediate Outcomes* relate primarily, though not exclusively, to sustained behavior changes in the youth served.
- *Short-Term Outcomes* concern both the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and attitudes, and with the achievement in the MGH Performance Standards.

Additionally, as described in *Section I. Project Requirements*, applicants will discuss partnerships with other service agencies in the community and the process its organization uses to become collaborators in the field. Further, applicants will discuss the organization’s accountability strategy for achievement in the four core outcomes areas and other outcomes identified in the LM as well as discuss the key activities involved in ensuring sustainability related to building support, showing results, retaining staff, and obtaining continuing funding. See **Project Sustainability Plan**, later in this section for additional application requirements.

Program Performance Evaluation Plan

Applicants must describe the plan for the program performance evaluation that will contribute to continuous quality improvement. The program performance evaluation should monitor ongoing processes and the progress towards the goals and objectives of the project. Include descriptions of the inputs (e.g., organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, budget, and other resources), key processes, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. The plan may be supported by a logic model and must explain how the inputs, processes and outcomes will be measured, and how the resulting information will be used to inform improvement of funded activities.

Applicants must describe the systems and processes that will support the organization's performance management requirements through effective tracking of performance outcomes, including a description of how the organization will collect and manage data (e.g. assigned skilled staff, data management software) in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. Applicants must describe any potential obstacles for implementing the program performance evaluation and how those obstacles will be addressed.

The applicant must include a description for oversight and monitoring subrecipients in accordance with 45 CFR 75.352.

In addition, applicants must include specific measures that the project will use toward effectively monitoring the project’s progress in meeting the four core outcomes as described in *Section I. Program Description, Performance Standards*.

Geographic Location

Describe the precise location of the project and boundaries of the area to be served by the proposed project.

Legal Status of Applicant Entity

Applicants must provide the following documentation:

Non-profit organizations applying for funding are required to submit proof of their non-profit status. Proof of non-profit status is any one of the following:

- A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in the IRS Code.
- A copy of a currently valid IRS tax-exemption certificate.
- A statement from a state taxing body, state attorney general, or other appropriate state official certifying that the applicant organization has non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals.
- A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status.
- Any of the items in the subparagraphs immediately above for a state or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local non-profit affiliate.

Unless directed otherwise, applicants must include proof of non-profit status in the *Appendices* file of the electronic application submission.

Project Sustainability Plan

Applicants must propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends. Grantees are expected to sustain key elements of their grant projects, e.g., strategies or services and interventions, which have been effective in improving practices and those that have led to improved outcomes for children and families.

Describe the approach to project sustainment that will be most effective and feasible. Describe the key individuals and/or organizations whose support will be required in order to sustain program activities. Describe the types of alternative support that will be required to sustain the planned program. If the proposed project involves key project partners, describe how their cooperation and/or collaboration will be maintained after the end of federal funding.

Organizational Capacity

Provide the following information on the applicant organization and, if applicable, on any cooperating partners:

- Organizational charts;

- Resumes (no more than two single-spaced pages in length);
- Copy or description of the applicant organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures;
- Evidence that the applicant organization, and any partnering organizations, have relevant experience and expertise with administration, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of programs similar to that offered under this announcement;
- Child care licenses and other documentation of professional accreditation;
- Information on compliance with federal/state/local government standards;
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.

Third-Party Agreements

Third-party agreements include Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Letters of Commitment. General letters of support are **not** considered to be third-party agreements. Third-party agreements must clearly describe the project activities and support to which the third party is committing. Third-party agreements must be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments on behalf of their organization.

Provide written and signed agreements between grantees and subgrantees, or subcontractors, or other cooperating entities. These agreements must detail the scope of work to be performed, work schedules, remuneration, and other terms and conditions that structure or define the relationship.

Collaboration/consortia applicants must provide letters of commitment or MOU identifying the primary applicant that is responsible for administering the grant. The primary applicant must provide documentation of the commitments made by partnering organizations and describe in detail their roles and responsibilities as partners in the collaboration/consortia.

Plan for Oversight of Federal Award Funds

Provide a plan describing how oversight of federal funds will be ensured and how grant activities and partner(s) will adhere to applicable federal and programmatic regulations. Applicants must identify staff that will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program activities, staff, and partner(s). Applicants must describe procedures and policies used to oversee staff and/or partners/contractors.

Describe organizational records systems that relate financial data to performance data by identifying the source and application of federal funds so that they demonstrate effective control over and accountability for funds, compare outlays with budget amounts, and provide accounting records supported by source documentation.

The Project Budget and Budget Justification

All applicants are required to submit a project budget and budget justification with their application. The project budget is entered on the Budget Information Standard Form, either SF-424A or SF-424C, according to the directions provided with the SFs. The budget justification consists of a budget narrative and a line-item budget detail that includes detailed calculations for "object class categories" identified on the Budget Information Standard Form. Applicants must

indicate the method they are selecting for their indirect cost rate. See Indirect Charges for further information.

Project budget calculations must include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. If matching or cost sharing is a requirement, applicants must include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance). See the table in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* listing the appropriate budget forms to use in this application.

Special Note: *The Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019, (Division B, Title II, Sec. 202), limits the salary amount that may be awarded and charged to ACF grants and cooperative agreements. Award funds issued under this announcement may not be used to pay the salary of an individual at a rate in excess of Executive Level II. The Executive Level II salary of the "Rates of Pay for the Executive Schedule" is \$189,600. This amount reflects an individual's base salary exclusive of fringe benefits and any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization. This salary limitation also applies to subawards and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.*

Provide a budget using the 424A and/or 424C, as applicable, for each year of the proposed project. Provide a budget justification, which includes a budget narrative and a line-item detail, for the first year of the proposed project. The budget narrative should describe how the categorical costs are derived. Discuss the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of the proposed costs.

In this section, applicants should describe how both the requested funding and the in-kind resources of the organization will be applied to support the Program Activities. This may include, but is not limited to: staffing, curricula, furniture/equipment, volunteers, and program space. Resources attributable to partnerships and collaborations should not be included in the budget narrative.

Applicants must include an estimated cost for sending at least one key staff person to attend the Annual National RHY Grantee training, the annual regional training, and any other travel for technical assistance training in their proposed budget.

Applicants lacking computer equipment (hardware) and client software, as used by their local CoC and funded for the purposes of completing the RHY-HMIS reporting, must include an estimated cost for such equipment, software, and training in their proposed budget. If the applicant already has such equipment, this fact must be noted. See *Section VI.3. Reporting*, regarding FYSB's requirement for keeping adequate statistical data through RHY-HMIS. In addition, if applicable, clearly describe the burden created due to the organization's inability to pay for the use of the RHY-HMIS and submit an alternative proposal for the use of another HMIS solution.

In addition to outlining an annual operating budget, list the funding sources that will support the MGH Project.

General

Use the following guidelines for preparing the budget and budget justification. Both federal and non-federal resources (when required) shall be detailed and justified in the budget and budget narrative justification. "Federal resources" refers only to the ACF grant funds for which you are applying. "Non-federal resources" are all other non-ACF federal and non-federal resources. It is suggested that budget amounts and computations be presented in a columnar format: first column, object class categories; second column, federal budget; next column(s), non-federal budget(s); and last column, total budget. The budget justification should be in a narrative form.

Personnel

Description: Costs of employee salaries and wages.

Justification: Identify the project director or principal investigator, if known at the time of application. For each staff person provide: the title; time commitment to the project in months; time commitment to the project as a percentage or full-time equivalent; annual salary; grant salary; wage rates; etc. Do not include the costs of consultants, personnel costs of delegate agencies, or of specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant. Contractors and consultants should not be placed under this category.

Fringe Benefits

Description: Costs of employee fringe benefits unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate.

Justification: Provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes, retirement insurance, and taxes.

Travel

Description: Costs of out-of-state or overnight project-related travel by employees of the applicant organization. Do not include in-state travel or consultant travel.

Justification: For each trip show the total number of traveler(s); travel destination; duration of trip; per diem; mileage allowances, if privately owned vehicles will be used to travel out of town; and other transportation costs and subsistence allowances. If appropriate for this project, travel costs for key project staff to attend ACF-sponsored workshops/conferences/grantee orientations should be detailed in the budget.

Equipment

Description: "Equipment" means an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year per unit and an acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of: (a) the capitalization level established by the organization for the financial statement purposes, or (b) \$5,000. (Note: Acquisition cost means the net invoice unit price of an item of

equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in-transit insurance, freight, and installation, shall be included in or excluded from acquisition cost in accordance with the applicant organization's regular written accounting practices.)

Justification: For each type of equipment requested applicants must provide a description of the equipment; the cost per unit; the number of units; the total cost; and a plan for use of the equipment in the project; as well as a plan for the use, and/or disposal of, the equipment after the project ends. An applicant organization that uses its own definition for equipment should provide a copy of its policy, or section of its policy, that includes the equipment definition.

Supplies

Description: Costs of all tangible personal property other than that included under the Equipment category. This includes office and other consumable supplies with a per-unit cost of less than \$5,000.

Justification: Specify general categories of supplies and their costs. Show computations and provide other information that supports the amount requested.

Contractual

Description: Costs of all contracts for services and goods except for those that belong under other categories such as equipment, supplies, construction, etc. Include third-party evaluation contracts, if applicable, and contracts with secondary recipient organizations (with budget detail), including delegate agencies and specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant. This area is not for individual consultants.

Justification: Demonstrate that all procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open, and free competition. Recipients and subrecipients are required to use 45 CFR 75.328 procedures and must justify any anticipated procurement action that is expected to be awarded without competition and exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold fixed by 41 U.S.C. § 134, as amended by 2 CFR Part 200.88, and currently set at \$150,000. Recipients may be required to make pre-award review and procurement documents, such as requests for proposals or invitations for bids, independent cost estimates, etc., available to ACF.

Note: Whenever the applicant intends to delegate part of the project to another agency, the applicant must provide a detailed budget and budget narrative for each contractor/sub-contractor, by agency title, along with the same supporting information referred to in these instructions. If the applicant plans to select the contractors/sub-contractors post-award and a detailed budget is not available at the time of application, the applicant must provide information on the nature of the work to be delegated, the estimated costs, and the process for selecting the delegate agency.

Other

Description: Enter the total of all other costs. Such costs, where applicable and appropriate, may include but are not limited to: consultant costs, local travel; insurance; food (when allowable); medical and dental costs (noncontractual); professional services costs (including audit charges); space and equipment rentals; printing and publication; computer use; training costs, such as tuition and stipends; staff development costs; and administrative costs.

Justification: Provide computations, a narrative description, and a justification for each cost under this category.

Indirect Charges

Description: Total amount of indirect costs. This category has one of two methods that an applicant can select. An applicant may only select one.

1) The applicant currently has an indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or another cognizant federal agency.

Note: An applicant must enclose a copy of the current approved rate agreement. If the applicant is requesting a rate that is less than what is allowed under the program, the authorized representative of the applicant organization must submit a signed acknowledgement that the applicant is accepting a lower rate than allowed.

2) Per 45 CFR § 75.414(f) Indirect (F&A) costs, “any non-Federal entity [i.e., applicant] that has never received a negotiated indirect costs rate, ... may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described in § 75.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time.”

Justification: This method only applies to applicants that have never received an approved negotiated indirect cost rate from HHS or another cognizant federal agency. Applicants awaiting approval of their indirect cost proposal may request the 10 percent de minimis rate. When the applicant chooses this method, costs included in the indirect cost pool must not be charged as direct costs to the grant.

Commitment of Non-Federal Resources

Description: Amounts of non-federal resources that will be used to support the project as identified in Block 18 of the SF-424.

For all federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the recipient’s cost sharing or

matching when such contributions meet all of the criteria listed in 45 CFR § 75.306.

For awards that require matching by statute, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards, even if the projected commitment exceeds the amount required by the statutory match. **A recipient's failure to provide the statutorily required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

For awards that do not require matching or cost sharing by statute, where "cost sharing" refers to any situation in which the recipient voluntarily shares in the costs of a project other than as statutorily required matching, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards. These include situations in which contributions are voluntarily proposed by an applicant and are accepted by ACF. Non-federal cost sharing will be included in the approved project budget so that the applicant will be held accountable for proposed non-federal cost-sharing funds as shown in the Notice of Award (NOA). **A recipient's failure to provide voluntary cost sharing of non-federal resources that have been accepted by ACF as part of the approved project costs and that have been shown as part of the approved project budget in the NOA, may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

Justification: If an applicant is relying on match from a third party, then a firm commitment of these resources (letter(s) or other documentation) is required to be submitted with the application. Detailed budget information must be provided for every funding source identified in Item 18. "Estimated Funding (\$)" on the SF-424.

Applicants are required to fully identify and document in their applications the specific costs or contributions they propose in order to meet a matching requirement. Applicants are also required to provide documentation in their applications on the sources of funding or contribution(s). In-kind contributions must be accompanied by a justification of how the stated valuation was determined. Matching or cost sharing must be documented by budget period (or by project period for fully funded awards). **A recipient's failure to provide a statutorily required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds.**

Applications that lack the required supporting documentation will not be disqualified from competitive review; however, it may impact an application's scoring under the evaluation criteria in *Section V.1.* of this announcement.

Paperwork Reduction Disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the Project Description and Budget/Budget Justification is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information. The Project Description and Budget/Budget Justification information collection is approved under OMB control number

0970-0139, expiration date is 02/28/2022. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Application Submission Options

Electronic Submission via www.Grants.gov

This section provides the application submission and receipt instructions for ACF program applications. Please read the following instructions carefully and completely.

Electronic Delivery

ACF is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. ACF applicants are required to submit their applications online through Grants.gov.

How to Register and Apply through Grants.gov

Read the following instructions about registering to apply for ACF funds. Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

The registration process can take up to four weeks to complete. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required application submission deadlines.

Organization applicants can find complete instructions here:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>

Obtain a DUNS Number: All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). Applicants must enter the DUNS number in the data entry field labeled "Organizations DUNS" on the SF-424 form.

For more detailed instructions for obtaining a DUNS number, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>

Register with SAM: In addition to having a DUNS number, organizations applying online through Grants.gov must register with the System for Award Management (SAM). All organizations must register with SAM in order to apply online. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov.

For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>

Create a Grants.gov Account: The next step in the registration process is to create an account with Grants.gov. Applicants must know their organization's DUNS number to complete this process. Completing this process automatically triggers an email request for applicant roles to the organization's E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) for review. The EBiz POC is a representative from your organization who is the contact listed for SAM. To apply for grants on behalf of your organization, you will need the AOR role.

For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html>

Authorize Grants.gov Roles: After creating an account on Grants.gov, the EBiz POC receives an email notifying them of your registration and request for roles. The EBiz POC will then log in to Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles, which may include the AOR role, thereby giving you permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of your organization. You will be able to submit your application online any time after you have been approved as an AOR.

For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/authorize-roles.html>

Track Role Status: To track your role request, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/track-role-status.html>

When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization's AOR that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC must authorize individuals who are able to make legally binding commitment on behalf of the organization as an AOR; this step is often missed and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.

How to Submit an Application to ACF via Grants.gov

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each FOA, you can create individual instances of a workspace.

The following is an overview of applying via Grants.gov. For access to complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>

Create a Workspace: Creating a workspace allows you to complete an application online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.

Complete a Workspace: Add participants to the workspace, complete all the required forms, and check for errors before submission.

Adobe Reader: If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms you can download

individual PDF forms in Workspace so that they will appear similar to other Standard or ACF forms. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive(s), or external drive(s), then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>

Mandatory Fields in Forms: In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.

Complete SF-424 Fields First: The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant name, address, and DUNS number. To trigger this feature, an applicant must complete the SF-424 information first. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.

Submit a Workspace: An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application **at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date** to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.

Track a Workspace: After successfully submitting a workspace package, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the package. The number will be listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html>

Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at support@grants.gov. For questions related to the specific grant opportunity, contact the number listed in the application package of the grant you are applying for.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number. The Support Center ticket number will assist ACF with tracking your issue and understanding background information on the issue.

Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission

All applications must be received by 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date established for each program. Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. An electronic date/time stamp is generated within the system when the application is successfully received by Grants.gov. The applicant AOR will receive an acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application. Applicant AORs will also receive the official date/stamp and Grants.gov Tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission.

When ACF successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov, and acknowledges the download of submission, Grants.gov will provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the email address of the applicant with the AOR role. Again, proof of timely submission shall be the official date and time that Grants.gov receives your application. Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date for the program will be considered late and will not be considered for funding by ACF.

Applicants with slow internet, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that transmission can take some time before Grants.gov receives your application. Again, Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the AOR role. The Grants.gov Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process. Please be patient and give the system time to process the application.

Issues with Federal Systems

For any systems issues experienced with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to ACF's "Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues" document for complete guidance at www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/systems_issue_policy_final.pdf.

Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission

To request an exemption from required electronic submission please refer to ACF's "Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission" document for complete guidance at:

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/acf_policy_for_requesting_an_exemption_from_required_electronic.pdf.

Paper Format Application Submission

An exemption is required for the submission of paper applications. See the preceding section on "*Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission.*"

Applicants with exemptions that submit their applications in paper format, by mail or delivery, must submit one original and two copies of the complete application with all attachments. The original and each of the two copies must include all required forms, certifications, assurances, and appendices, be signed by the AOR, and be unbound. The original copy of the application must have original signature(s). See *Section IV.7.* of this announcement for address information for paper format application submissions. Applications submitted in paper format must be received by 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date.

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times* in this announcement.

IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

All applicants must have a DUNS Number (<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>) and an active registration with the System for Award Management (SAM.gov/SAM, <https://www.sam.gov>).

Obtaining a DUNS Number may take 1 to 2 days.

All applicants are required to maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If a grant is awarded, registration at SAM must be active throughout the life of the award.

Plan ahead. Allow at least 10 business days after you submit your registration for it to become active in SAM and at least an additional 24 hours before that registration information is available in other government systems, i.e. Grants.gov.

This action should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application through Grants.gov or prevent the award of a grant. Applicants should maintain documentation (with dates) of their efforts to register for, or renew a registration, at SAM. User Guides are available under the “Help” tab at <https://www.sam.gov>.

HHS requires all entities that plan to apply for, and ultimately receive, federal grant funds from any HHS Agency, or receive subawards directly from recipients of those grant funds to:

- Be registered in the SAM prior to submitting an application or plan;
- Maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application or plan under consideration by an OPDIV; and
- Provide its active DUNS number in each application or plan it submits to the OPDIV.

ACF is prohibited from making an award until an applicant has complied with these requirements. At the time an award is ready to be made, if the intended recipient has not complied with these requirements, ACF:

- May determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award; and
- May use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

IV.4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications: **07/25/2019**

Explanation of Due Dates

The due date for receipt of applications is listed in the *Overview* section and in this section. See *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors*.

Electronic Applications

The deadline for submission of electronic applications via www.Grants.gov is 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date. Electronic applications submitted at 12:00 a.m., ET, on the day after the due date will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically via www.Grants.gov unless they received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

ACF does not accommodate transmission of applications by email or facsimile.

Instructions for electronic submission via www.Grants.gov are available at: www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html.

Applications submitted to www.Grants.gov at any time during the open application period prior to the due date and time that fail the Grants.gov validation check will not be received at ACF. These applications will not be acknowledged.

Mailed Paper Format Applications

The deadline for receipt of mailed, paper applications is 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date. Mailed paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

Hand-Delivered Paper Format Applications

Applications that are hand-delivered by applicants, applicant couriers, by overnight/express mail couriers, or other representatives of the applicant must be received on, or before, the due date listed in the *Overview* and in this section. These applications must be delivered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays). Applications should be delivered to the address provided in *Section IV.7. Other Submission Requirements*.

Hand-delivered paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Hand-delivered paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

No appeals will be considered for applications classified as late under the following circumstances:

- Applications submitted electronically via www.Grants.gov are considered late when they are dated and time-stamped after the deadline of 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date.
- Paper format applications received by mail or hand-delivery after 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date will be classified as late and will be disqualified.
- Paper format applications received from applicant organizations that were not approved for an exemption from required electronic application submission under the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Submission* will be disqualified.

Emergency Extensions

ACF may extend an application due date when circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit their applications on time. Only events such as documented natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, tornados, etc.), or a verifiable widespread disruption of electrical service, or mail service, will be considered. The determination to extend or waive the due date, and/or receipt time, requirements in an emergency situation rests with the Grants Management Officer listed as the Office of Grants Management Contact in *Section VII. HHS Awarding Agency Contact(s)*.

Acknowledgement from www.Grants.gov

Applicants will receive an initial email upon submission of their application to www.Grants.gov. This email will provide a **Grants.gov Tracking Number**. Applicants should refer to this tracking number in all communication with Grants.gov. The email will also provide a **date and time stamp**, which serves as the official record of application's submission. Receipt of this email does not indicate that the application is accepted or that it has passed the validation check.

Applicants will also receive an email acknowledging that the received application is in the **Grants.gov validation process**, after which a third email is sent with the information that the submitted application package has passed, or failed, the series of checks and validations. Applications that are submitted on time that fail the validation check will not be transmitted to ACF and will not be acknowledged by ACF.

See "What to Expect After Submitting" at www.Grants.gov for more information.

Acknowledgement from ACF of an electronic application's submission:

Applicants will be sent additional email(s) from ACF acknowledging that the application has been retrieved from www.Grants.gov by ACF. Receipt of these emails is not an indication that the application is accepted for competition.

Acknowledgement from ACF of receipt of a paper format application:

ACF will not provide acknowledgement of receipt of hard copy application packages submitted via mail or courier services.

IV.5. Intergovernmental Review

This program is not subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," or 45 CFR Part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities." No action is required of applicants under this announcement with regard to E.O. 12372.

IV.6. Funding Restrictions

Costs of organized fund raising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred to raise capital or obtain contributions are unallowable. Fund raising costs for the purposes of meeting the Federal program objectives are allowable with prior written approval from the Federal awarding agency. (45 CFR §75.442)

Proposal costs are the costs of preparing bids, proposals, or applications on potential Federal and non-Federal awards or projects, including the development of data necessary to support the non-Federal entity's bids or proposals. Proposal costs of the current accounting period of both successful and unsuccessful bids and proposals normally should be treated as indirect (F&A) costs and allocated currently to all activities of the non-Federal entity. No proposal costs of past accounting periods will be allocable to the current period. (45 CFR §75.460)

Grant awards will not allow reimbursement of pre-award costs.

Construction is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this grant award.

Costs for acquisition and renovation of existing structures are authorized but may not exceed 15 percent of the grant amount awarded. (45 CFR. § 1351.15 and § 1351.16)

Applicants are advised that no grant funds may be used for any program for distributing sterile needles or syringes for the hypodermic injection of any illegal drug. Prospective grantees are advised that entities receiving grant funds and operating a program to distribute sterile needles or syringes for hypodermic injections of illegal drugs must account for all funds used for such programs separately from any expenditure of grant funds.

HHS funds may not be used for abortions.

For further funding restrictions, please see the HHS Grants Policy Statement reference in *Section VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements*.

IV.7. Other Submission Requirements

Submit paper applications to one of the following addresses. Also see *ACF Policy on Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission* at www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto#chapter-6.

Submission By Mail

FYSB Operations

c/o F2-Solutions

ATTN: Maternity Group Home FOA
1401 Mercantile Lane
Suite 401
Largo, MD 20774

Hand Delivery

FYSB Operations
c/o F2-Solutions
ATTN: Maternity Group Home FOA
1401 Mercantile Lane
Suite 401
Largo, MD 20774

Electronic Submission

See *Section IV.2.* for application requirements and for guidance when submitting applications electronically via www.Grants.gov.
For all submissions, see *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*

V. Application Review Information

V.1. Criteria

Please note: With the exception of the funding opportunity announcement and relevant statutes and regulations, reviewers will not access, or review, any materials that are not part of the application documents. This includes information accessible on websites via hyperlinks that are referenced, or embedded, in the application. Though an application may include web links, or embedded hyperlinks, reviewers will not review this information as it is not considered to be part of the application documents. Nor will the information on websites be taken into consideration in scoring of evaluation criteria presented in this section. Reviewers will evaluate and score an application based on the documents that are presented in the application and **will not** refer to, or access, external links during the objective review.

Need For Assistance

Maximum Points:10

In reviewing the need for assistance, reviewers will provide appropriate scores to the extent applicants have thoroughly:

1.1 Demonstrated the need for a MGH Project, including the nature and scope of the prevalence of homeless pregnant and parenting youth in the community. (0-5 points)

1.2 Detailed the ages, types of population, and the number of youth and their young families to be effectively served under this award in compliance with the requirements of this project. (0-3 points)

1.3 Provided strong evidence of the cost-benefit of providing MGH services in the community when compared with the impact of the services not being available. (0-2 points)

Approach

Maximum Points:50

In reviewing the approach, reviewers will provide appropriate scores to the extent applicants have submitted a well-developed, comprehensive program approach that:

2.1 Detailed a positive youth development and trauma-informed care approach supporting youth and infant/child in the MGH Project. (0-5 points)

2.2 Outlined the process the organization will use to screen youth and their children for eligibility for the MGH, including criteria the applicant intends to use to ensure the MGH is the best fit for each youth's needs. In addition, the applicant included a specific assessment process, describing specific tools in place to identify the youth's unique needs and including approaches to identify youth victims of trafficking or at high-risk for trafficking or exploitation. (0-5 pts)

2.3 Detailed all supportive housing options for youth and their families to be used in this project (e.g., group homes, host homes, supervised apartments). In addition, justified why the number of youth to be served through shelter and supportive services is appropriate and attainable. (0-10 points)

2.4 Effectively illustrated a reasonable plan and approach the organization proposes to address ALL of the elements listed in the comprehensive pregnant and/or parenting youth-centered services model as outlined in *Section I. Program Description, Project Requirements*. (0-10 points)

2.5 Provided a detailed and feasible plan to support aftercare for MGH youth and their young families, including details on the referral process to ensure partnering agencies provided support to the referred youth. (0-10 points)

2.6 Successfully explained how the applicant will operationalize their proposed approach as communicated in their submitted logic model. In addition, identified the proposed activities, inputs, and outputs that link to short-term, intermediate, and long-term achievement in the four core outcome areas. Demonstrated how the applicant will collect and submit data to FYSB on all RHY youth via the local CoC. (0-10 points)

Performance Evaluation Plan

Maximum Points:5

In reviewing the performance evaluation plan, reviewers will provide appropriate scores to the extent applicants have reasonably:

3.1 Described their approach for documenting progress on the project, their proposed efforts towards continuous quality improvement, and any obstacles or challenges they may face implementing the program. (0-2 points)

3.2 Demonstrated the specific measures that the project will use toward effectively monitoring the project's progress toward achievement in the four core outcomes areas. (0-3 points)

Organizational Capacity

Maximum Points:10

In reviewing the organizational capacity, reviewers will provide appropriate scores to the extent applicants have effectively:

4.1 Provided strong evidence of sufficient experience and expertise in efficiently and effectively operating runaway and homelessness youth projects, and pregnant and parenting homeless youth projects, designed to prevent and end youth homelessness. (0-5 points)

4.2 Detailed the scope of work to be performed, work schedules, remuneration, and other terms and conditions that defines the working relationship with subgrantees, subcontractors, or other cooperating entities (e.g., co-laborers as described in *Section I. Project Requirements*) to successfully carry out the activities as described in this FOA. (0-2 points)

4.3 Demonstrated the ability and capacity to competently incorporate and manage the Program Administration Requirements (i.e., staff safety, background checks, emergency preparedness plan, licensing requirement, and training plan) as detailed in *Section VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements* into the project. (0 – 3 points)

Budget and Budget Justification

Maximum Points:10

In reviewing the budget and budget justification, reviewers will provide appropriate scores to the extent applicants have thoroughly:

5.1 Outlined a clear and realistic line-item budget and narrative budget for the federal and non-federal share of project costs associated with implementing program requirements. The budget thoroughly explained how the funds requested are necessary and essential to accomplish the scope of services. The budget included the costs of sending at least one key staff person to attend the Annual National RHY Grantees Training, annual regional training, and any other travel for technical training that will be funded by the grant. (0-5 points)

5.2 If applicable, provided a reasonable, estimated cost for equipment, software, and training in the proposed budget for RHY-HMIS computer equipment and client software or noted the organization already has the equipment. (0-1 point)

5.3 Demonstrated its commitment to use FYSB funds and any additional funding received for this project only for activities as described in *Section I, Program Description* to support the MGH project. (0-2 points)

5.4 Demonstrated how oversight of federal funds will be conducted and how grant activities and partner(s) that are in a formal MOU agreement or contract will adhere to applicable federal and programmatic regulations. (0-2 points)

Sustainability Plan

Maximum Points:15

In reviewing the sustainability plan, reviewers will provide appropriate scores to the extent applicants have reasonably:

6.1 Demonstrated a well-designed process the organization uses to build and maintain partnerships with other service agencies in the community that supports runaway and homeless youth projects. (0-5 points)

6.2 Detailed a realistic and measurable strategy for helping runaway and homeless youth in the MGH program progress towards achieving success in the four core outcome areas as described in *Section I, Program Description*. (0-5 point)

6.3 Provided key activities involved in effectively ensuring project sustainability involving building support, showing results, retaining staff, and obtaining continuing funding. (0-5 points)

V.2. Review and Selection Process

No grant award will be made under this announcement on the basis of an incomplete application. No grant award will be made to an applicant or sub-recipient that does not have a DUNS number (<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>) and an active registration at SAM (www.sam.gov). See *Section IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)*.

Initial ACF Screening

Each application will be screened to determine whether it meets any of the disqualification factors described in *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors*.

Disqualified applications are considered to be “non-responsive” and are excluded from the competitive review process. Applicants will be notified of a disqualification determination by email or by USPS postal mail within 30 federal business days from the closing date of this FOA.

Objective Review and Results

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated by objective review panels using only the criteria described in *Section V.1. Criteria* of this announcement. Each panel is composed of experts with knowledge and experience in the area under review. Generally, review panels include three reviewers and one chairperson.

Results of the competitive objective review are taken into consideration by ACF in the selection of projects for funding; however, objective review scores and rankings are not binding. Scores and rankings are only one element used in the award decision-making process.

ACF may elect not to fund applicants with management or financial problems that would indicate an inability to successfully complete the proposed project. Applications may be funded in whole or in part. Successful applicants may be funded at an amount lower than that requested. ACF reserves the right to consider preferences to fund organizations serving emerging, unserved, or under-served populations, including those populations located in pockets of poverty. ACF will also consider the geographic distribution of federal funds in its award decisions.

As required by the RHYA, priority for funding shall be given to public and private entities with experience in providing services to runaway, homeless, or street youth. Eligible applicants will be assessed on how well they demonstrated and substantiated their experience in providing services to runaway, homeless, or street youth. Applicants should refer to *Section IV.2. The Project Description, Approach, Organizational Capacity*.

ACF may elect not to fund applicants and/or partnering organizations that have previously demonstrated an inability to adhere to ACF, ACYF, or RHY reporting requirements in the past.

Recipients of an award under this FOA will be legally accountable to ACF for performance of the project or program. Recipients will be held solely responsible in the event of non-compliance by a subrecipient. Applicants proposing to use subrecipients to complete the

proposed project will be reviewed by ACF for any management or financial problems. ACF may elect to not allow a recipient to subaward if it displays an inability to properly monitor and management subrecipients.

Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants

As required by 2 CFR Part 200, the Uniform Guidance, effective January 1, 2016, ACF is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), www.fapiis.gov/, before making any award in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$150,000) over the period of performance. An applicant may review and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency has previously entered into FAPIIS. ACF will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR § 200.205 Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants (http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?node=se2.1.200_1205&rgn=div8).

Approved but Unfunded Applications

Applications recommended for approval in the objective review process, but not selected for award, may receive funding if additional funds become available or may compete for funding during the next review cycle (if one occurs in the next fiscal year). Applications designated as “approved but unfunded” typically cannot be kept in an active status for more than 12 months. For those applications determined as “approved but unfunded,” notice will be given of the determination by email.

V.3. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

Announcement of awards and the disposition of applications will be provided to applicants at a later date. ACF staff cannot respond to requests for information regarding funding decisions prior to the official applicant notification.

VI. Federal Award Administration Information

VI.1. Federal Award Notices

Successful applicants will be notified through the issuance of a Notice of Award (NoA) that sets forth the amount of funds granted, the terms and conditions of the grant, the effective date of the grant, the budget period for which initial support will be given, the non-federal share to be provided (if applicable), and the total project period for which support is contemplated. The NoA will be signed by the Grants Officer and transmitted via postal mail, email, or by GrantSolutions.gov or the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES), whichever is relevant. Following the finalization of funding decisions, organizations whose applications will not be funded will be notified by letter signed by the cognizant Program Office head. Any other correspondence that announces to a Principal Investigator, or a Project Director, that an

application was selected is not an authorization to begin performance.

Project costs that are incurred prior to the receipt of the NoA are at the recipient's risk and may be reimbursed only to the extent that they are considered allowable as approved pre-award costs. Information on allowable pre-award costs and the time period under which they may be incurred is available in *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions*.

Grantees may translate the Federal award and other documents into another language. In the event of inconsistency between any terms and conditions of the Federal award and any translation into another language, the English language meaning will control. Where a significant portion of the grantee's employees who are working on the Federal award are not fluent in English, the grantee must provide the Federal award in English and in the language(s) with which employees are more familiar.

VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Awards issued under this announcement are subject to 45 CFR Part 75 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is available at www.ecfr.gov. Unless otherwise noted in this section, administrative and national policy requirements that are applicable to discretionary grants are available at: www.acf.hhs.gov/administrative-and-national-policy-requirements.

HHS Grants Policy Statement

The HHS Grants Policy Statement (HHS GPS) is the Department of Health and Human Services' single policy guide for discretionary grants and cooperative agreements. ACF grant awards are subject to the requirements of the HHS GPS, which covers basic grants processes, standard terms and conditions, and points of contact, as well as important agency-specific requirements. The general terms and conditions in the HHS GPS will apply as indicated unless there are statutory, regulatory, or award-specific requirements to the contrary that are specified in the Notice of Award (NOA). The HHS GPS is available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/discretionary-post-award-requirements#chapter-1>.

An application funded with the release of federal funds through a grant award does not constitute, or imply, compliance with federal regulations. Funded organizations are responsible for ensuring that their activities comply with all applicable federal regulations.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and Final Rule

On December 20, 2016, FYSB published a rule to improve performance standards and program requirements for runaway and homeless youth programs. This rule builds upon existing policies and guidance to better support runaway and homeless youth by strengthening training and professional development for service providers, defining safe and appropriate exits from homelessness, requiring aftercare planning for all youth exiting programs, and improving nondiscrimination protections for youth. The rule also clarifies statutory changes made to the

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act of 2008. All RHY grantees must comply with the rule, and this FOA reflects the requirements in the rule (45 CFR 1351).

Program Administration Requirements

Applicants are advised that statutory requirements applicable to grants under this FOA can be found in the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, 34 U.S.C. § 11201-11281.

Applicants are further advised that regulations implementing certain requirements of the RHYA can be found at 45 CFR Part 1351.

Staff Safety: Projects must have safety protocols for workers.

Background Checks: Pursuant to 45 CFR § 1351.23(j) of the RHY Rule, projects must have a plan to ensure background checks are completed on all employees, contractors, volunteers, and consultants who have regular and unsupervised private contact with youth served by the organization, and on all adults who reside in or operate host homes, beginning on October 1, 2017. Required background checks are to include state or tribal criminal history records, including fingerprint checks; sex offender registry check; and any other checks required by state law, and to the extent the project is able to, the plan should include Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal history records, including fingerprint checks and child abuse and neglect registry checks. If a project is unable to obtain FBI criminal history information or child abuse and neglect registry information, the agency plan must detail efforts to obtain such information and the impediments in doing so. In addition, as appropriate to job functions, projects must also include verification of educational credentials and employment experience, the individual's driving records (for those who will transport youth), and professional licensing records.

Emergency Preparedness Plan: Pursuant to 45 CFR § 1351.23(g) of the RHY Rule, projects must have plans for routine preventative maintenance of facilities as well as preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. The plan should contain strategies for addressing evacuation, security, food, medical supplies, and notification of youths' families, as appropriate. In the event of an evacuation because of specific facility issues, such as fire, loss of utilities, or authorities, an alternative location needs to be designated and included in the plan.

Licensing Requirement: Pursuant to 45 CFR § 1351.23(h), projects must have plans to ensure that all shelters are licensed and any shelter to which the project regularly refers clients has evidence of current licensure in states or localities with licensure requirements.

Training Plan: Projects must ensure that all paid and volunteer workers are trained on the Core Competencies of Youth Workers as necessary to carry out the objectives and activities of the project. This shall include, but is not limited to, positive youth development, trauma-informed care, evidence-informed practices, street outreach intervention, human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, harm reduction, assessment and case management, worker safety, understanding the diversity and culture of life on the street, safe and ethical practices, and community resources for well-being and self-sufficiency.

Serving Youth Who Run Away From Foster Care or Correctional Institutes: Pursuant to 45 CFR § 1351.23(e) and (f), projects must develop and implement a plan for addressing youth who have run away from foster care placement or correctional institutions, in accordance with federal, state, or local laws or regulations that apply to these situations.

Projects must also take steps to ensure that youth who are or should be under the legal jurisdiction of the juvenile justice or child welfare systems obtain and receive services from those systems until such time as they are released from the jurisdiction of those systems.

Additionally, TLP/MGH programs are required to increase their capacity to identify and provide services and/or service referrals to trafficked youth by participating in professional training and adding human trafficking elements into existing screening and assessment tools. TLP/MGH programs are encouraged to enhance their human trafficking prevention and intervention efforts to minimize these incidents among vulnerable youth and effectively identify trafficked youth.

Governance and Fiscal Controls: Organizations must have in place governance structure, fiscal control, and accountability procedures.

Staffing Plan: Organizations must staff and supervise the project to ensure the effective implementation of the project plans.

Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Short-Term Training

Grantees must receive and participate in technical assistance, monitoring, and short-term training as recommended by federal staff to ensure quality programming and implementation to allow flexibility in which techniques will be used. It is not a requirement that every staff person receives training in every subject offered. However, all youth-serving workers on staff should receive training sufficient to meet the stated Core Competencies of Youth Workers. Training and technical assistance is free to TLP/MGH grantees through the Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC). Services include regionally based technical assistance clinics, training sessions, training of trainers, e-learning, webinars, and an annual grantee training. Grantees are strongly encouraged to participate in human trafficking training and activities offered by RHYTTAC. More information is available at www.rhyttac.net.

In addition, all grantees must budget annually for the costs of sending at least one key staff person to attend the RHY National Grantee Training and to the regional training. The list of technical assistance and training options reflect primarily the evolution and expansion over the years of the training and technical assistance program, and the items listed are all conducted currently under the program. Grantees would participate in technical assistance or short-term training as a condition of funding, as determined necessary by HHS, in areas such as, but not limited to:

- Aftercare services or counseling;
- Background checks;
- Core competencies of youth workers;
- Core support services;
- Crisis intervention techniques;
- Cultural and linguistic diversity;
- Development of coordinated networks of private non-profit agencies and/or public agencies to provide services;
- Ethics and staff safety;
- Fiscal management;
- Low cost community alternatives for runaway or otherwise homeless youth;
- Positive youth development;
- Program management;

- Risk and protective factors related to youth homelessness;
- Screening and assessment practices;
- Human trafficking (sex and labor trafficking);
- Shelter facility staff development;
- Special populations (e.g., tribal youth; youth with disabilities; youth victims of trafficking, sexual exploitation, or sexual abuse);
- Trauma and the effects of trauma on youth;
- Use of evidence-based and evidence-informed interventions; and
- Youth and family counseling.

In addition, procedures shall be established for the training of project staff in the protection of confidentiality requirements pursuant to 45 CFR § 1351.21(c) of the RHY Rule.

Grantees shall coordinate their activities with the Runaway and Homeless Youth National Communication System, operated by the National Runaway Safeline, which links runaway and homeless youth projects and other service providers with runaway or otherwise homeless youth, as appropriate to the specific activities provided by the grantee.

Confidentiality

Pursuant to 45 CFR § 1351.21 of the RHY Rule, no records containing the identity of individual youth, including, but not limited to, lists of names, addresses, photographs, or records of evaluation of individuals served by a Runaway and Homeless Youth project, may be disclosed or transferred to any individual or to any public or private agency, with the following exception. Research, evaluation, and statistical reports funded by grants provided under section 343 of the Act are allowed to be disclosed on individual data, but only if such data are de-identified in ways that preclude disclosing information to identify individuals. Additionally, youth served by a Runaway and Homeless Youth project shall have the right to review their records; to correct a record or file a statement of disagreement; and to be apprised of the individuals who have reviewed their records. Finally, HHS policies regarding confidential information and experimentation and treatment shall not apply if HHS finds that state law is more protective of the rights of runaway or otherwise homeless youth.

Grantees must ensure that all confidential, sensitive information and records will be properly handled and safeguarded. Grantees must have a secure process that allow clients to review their records, correct a record, or file a statement of disagreement and be apprised of all individuals and entities that have reviewed their records.

Under the RHYA, grantees may not disclose records maintained on individual runaway and homeless youth without the consent of the youth and/or parent or legal guardian, with the exception of disclosing records to a government agency involved in the disposition of criminal charges and disclosing de-identified records to an agency for compiling statistical records.

Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations

The grantee acknowledges its obligation to comply with 45 CFR Part 87 "Equal Treatment For Faith-Based Organizations," including the requirement that all faith-based or religious organizations are eligible, on the same basis as any other organization, to participate in this and any program for which they are otherwise eligible. Thus, the grantee agrees that when selecting service providers or subgrantees, it will not discriminate for or against any organization on the

basis of the organization's religious character or affiliation as indicated in 45 CFR 87.3(a). For further information, visit <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/administrative-and-national-policy-requirements#chapter-2>.

VI.3. Reporting

Performance Progress Reports: Semi-Annually

Recipients under this FOA will be required to submit performance progress and financial reports periodically throughout the project period. Information on reporting requirements is available on the ACF website at www.acf.hhs.gov/discretionary-post-award-requirements#chapter-2.

For planning purposes, the frequency of required reporting for awards made under this announcement are as follows:

Financial Reports: Semi-Annually

For planning purposes, the frequency of required reporting for awards made under this announcement are as follows:

Runaway and Homeless Youth Data Collection Requirements

Grantees are legislatively required to keep adequate statistical records profiling the youth and families assisted under this federal grant. Historically, RHYMIS served as the designated data collection system, enabling grantees to collect and transmit youth-level data to FYSB on a semi-annual basis.

Grantees are required to join with the local CoC in their area to work with other homeless service providers on data collection efforts. RHY grantees may use FYSB grant funds to cover charges associated with CoC training and access to the RHY-HMIS software.

All MGH grantees need to record data for youth individually contacted and engaged into RHY-HMIS.

Grantees must identify the projected number of active RHY-HMIS users necessary to collect data on all youth served using MGH grant, report timely and accurate data to FYSB through semi-annual data upload processes, and ensure that data quality thresholds are met.

Grantees must also receive access to HMIS by an HMIS lead in the CoC where the grantee operates and receive training on its use and reporting functionalities. The contact information for the HMIS lead in every CoC may be found at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/?programid=3&::searchText=&::stateId>. Grantees must report to the HMIS lead any technical or structural issues on the use of HMIS.

Grantees must submit the data collected in RHY-HMIS to FYSB during a semi-annual upload process by generating a report in RHY-HMIS with de-identified name, date of birth, and Social Security numbers of all youth served with FYSB funding.

Grantees must assign one point of contact for uploading the client-level data to FYSB. This will

assist FYSB in creating and maintaining a formal communications link for sharing important updates and system developments.

Additional materials and instructions regarding RHY-HMIS use and reporting for RHY grantees may be found at: <https://www.rhyttac.net/rhy-hmis>.

Grantees are not required to obtain consent to collect data on individual youth in RHY-HMIS or record information about that youth in other records. Consent is required, however, for data to be shared within a RHY-HMIS solution across all programs participating in that CoC. The parent or legal guardian of youth under 18 must provide the consent to share data, whereas youth 18 years or older are able to provide consent for themselves to share data.

Performance Standards and Measures

The RHY Program has developed corresponding measures, in cases where grantees’ compliance with performance standards may be evaluated using existing RHY-HMIS elements. Some of these measures contain specific targets informed by past RHY Program data that grantees are required to meet.

In other cases, performance standards required by the final rule do not correspond to existing RHY-HMIS data elements. For these performance standards, grantees must use the existing Performance Progress Report (PPR) to report these data. The PPR reporting process is found under PRA OMB Control Number 0970-0406.

Detailed guidance, training, and technical assistance on how to collect and report data on these performance standards will be developed and provided to RHY grantees in advance of reporting deadlines.

The performance standards apply to all RHY-funded grantees beginning on October 1, 2017.

Grantees’ performance will be monitored based on their compliance with these performance standards and measures. Grantees’ performance on these standards may also be used when deciding which RHY grantee applications to fund in future FOAs.

The table below summarizes the performance standards and corresponding measures, as well as the data collection instrument that grantees are required to use for each measure.

| Performance Standard | Corresponding Measure | Data Collection Instrument |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of social and emotional well-being. | The average composite score of general health, mental health, and dental health status will be lower at exit from a MGH than at entry. | RHY-HMIS |
| Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of permanent connections. | Grantees will report the percentage of youth upon exiting the MGH who report that there at least one adult in their life, other than RHY program staff, to whom they can go for advice or emotional support. | PPR |
| Grantees will enhance outcomes for | 66% of youth leaving a MGH will be attending | RHY-HMIS |

| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| youth in the core area of education or employment. | school or have graduated from high school or obtained a GED. | |
| Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of education or employment. | 75% of youth leaving a MGH will be employed or looking for work. | RHY-HMIS |
| Grantees will enhance outcomes for youth in the core area of stable housing. | 90% of youth leaving a MGH will exit to a safe and stable destination. | RHY-HMIS |
| Grantees will ensure that youth have safe and appropriate exits when leaving the program. | Grantees will report the type of destination for each youth who exits a MGH. | RHY- HMIS |

VII. HHS Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Program Office Contact

Angie Webley
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth, and Families
Family and Youth Services Bureau, Headquarters
330 C Street, SW.
Switzer Building, Third Floor, Room 3617B
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: (202) 401-5490
Email: angie.webley@acf.hhs.gov

Office of Grants Management Contact

Katrina Morgan
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Grants Management
330 C Street, SW.
Switzer Building, Third Floor, Room 3204
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: (202) 401-5127
Email: katrina.morgan@acf.hhs.gov

Federal Relay Service:

Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) at www.gsa.gov/fedrelay.

VIII. Other Information

Reference Websites

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) www.hhs.gov/.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) www.acf.hhs.gov/.

ACF Funding Opportunities Forecast www.grants.gov/.

ACF Funding Opportunity Announcements ami.grantsolutions.gov/.

ACF "How To Apply For A Grant" <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto>.

Grants.gov Accessibility Information www.grants.gov/web/grants/accessibility-compliance.html.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) <http://www.ecfr.gov/>.

United States Code (U.S.C.) <http://uscode.house.gov/>.

Application Checklist

Applicants may use this checklist as a guide when preparing an application package.

| What to Submit | Where Found | When to Submit |
|---|--|---|
| Certification Regarding Lobbying (Grants.gov Lobbying Form) | Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications</i> . This form is available in the FOA's forms package at www.Grants.gov . | Submission is due with the application package or prior to the award of a grant. |
| SF-424 - Application for | Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms,</i> | Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in |

| | | |
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| Federal Assistance | <p><i>Assurances, and Certifications.</i></p> <p>This form is available in the FOA's forms package at www.Grants.gov in the Mandatory section.</p> | <p><i>Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.</i></p> |
| Proof of Non-Profit Status | <p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description, Legal Status of Applicant Entity.</i></p> | <p>Proof of non-profit status should be submitted with the application package by the application due date and time listed in the <i>Overview</i> and <i>Section IV.4.</i> of the FOA.</p> <p>If it is not available at the time of application submission, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.</p> |
| SF-424A - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non- Construction Programs | <p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.</i></p> <p>These forms are available in the FOA's forms package at www.Grants.gov in the Mandatory section.</p> <p>They are required for applications that include only non-construction activities.</p> | <p>Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.</i></p> |
| The Project Description | <p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description.</i></p> | <p>Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.</i></p> |
| SF-Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL) | <p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.</i></p> <p>This form is available in the FOA's forms package at www.Grants.gov.</p> | <p>Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.</i></p> |
| The Project Budget and Budget | <p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Budget and Budget</i></p> | <p>Submission is required in addition to submission of SF-424A and / or SF-</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Justification | <i>Justification.</i> | 424C. Submission is required with the application package by the due date in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times</i> . |
| Table of Contents | Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> . | Submit with the application by the due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times</i> . |
| Unique Entity Identifier (DUNS) and Systems for Award Management (SAM) registration. | Referenced in <i>Section IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)</i> in the announcement. To obtain a DUNS number (Unique Entity Identifier), go to http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform . To register at SAM, go to http://www.sam.gov . | A DUNS number (Unique Entity Identifier) and registration at SAM.gov are required for all applicants. Active registration at SAM must be maintained throughout the application and project award period. |
| Mandatory Grant Disclosure | Requirement, submission instructions, and mailing addresses are found in the "Mandatory Grant Disclosure" in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances and Certifications</i> . | If applicable, concurrent submission to the Administration for Children and Families and to the Office of the Inspector General is required. |
| Project Summary/Abstract | Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> . The Project Summary/Abstract is limited to one single-spaced page. | Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times</i> . |
| SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities | "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" is referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications</i> . This form is available in | If submission of this form is applicable, it is due at the time of application. If it not available at the time of |

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| | the FOA's forms package at www.Grants.gov . | application, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant. |
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Appendix

Definitions

AFTERCARE: Additional services provided beyond the period of residential stay that offer continuity and supportive follow-up to youth served by the program. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

BACKGROUND CHECK: The review of an individual employee's or employment applicant's personal information, which shall include state or tribal criminal history records. FBI criminal history records, including fingerprint checks; a child abuse and neglect registry check; and a sex offender registry check for all employees, consultants, contractors, and volunteers who have regular, unsupervised contact with individual youth, and for all adult occupants of host homes, to the extent FYSB determines this to be practicable and specifies the requirement in a FOA that is applicable to a grantee's award. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

CASE MANAGEMENT: Identifying and assessing the needs of the client, and, as appropriate, arranging, coordinating, monitoring, evaluating, and advocating for a package of services to meet the specific needs of the client. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

CLIENT: A runaway, homeless, or street youth, or a youth at risk of running away or becoming homeless, who is served by a program grantee. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

CONTACT: The engagement between Street Outreach Program staff and youth who are at risk of homelessness or runaway status or homeless youth in need of services that could reasonably lead to shelter or significant harm reduction. Contact may occur on the streets, at a drop-in center, or at other locations known to be frequented by homeless, runaway, or street youth. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

CORE COMPETENCIES OF YOUTH WORKER: The ability to demonstrate skills in six domain areas: (1) Professionalism (including, but not limited to, consistent and reliable job performance, awareness and use of professional ethics to guide practice); (2) Applied positive youth development approach (including, but not limited to, skills to develop a positive youth development plan and identifying the client's strengths in order to best apply a positive youth development framework); (3) Cultural and human diversity (including, but not limited to, gaining knowledge and skills to meet the needs of clients of a different race, ethnicity, nationality, religion/spirituality, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation); (4) Applied human development (including, but not limited to, understanding the developmental needs of those at risk and with special needs); (5) Relationship and communication (including, but not limited to, working with clients in a collaborative manner); and (6) Developmental practice methods (including, but not limited to, utilizing methods focused on genuine relationships, health and safety, intervention planning). (45 CFR § 1351.1)

COUNSELING SERVICES: The provision of guidance, support, referrals for services including, but not limited to, mental health services, and advice to runaway or otherwise homeless youth and their families, as well as to youth and families when a young person is at risk of running

away, as appropriate. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

CRISIS STABILIZATION SERVICES: Services such as screening, assessment, and intensive case management to ensure that youth receive assistance with emotional and behavioral health challenges while developing a plan for permanency. (For purposes of this announcement.)

DROP-INCENTER: A place operated and staffed for runaway and homeless youth that clients can visit without an appointment to get advice or information, to receive services or service referrals, or to meet other runaway or homeless youth. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

FOLLOW-UP SERVICES: The act of assessing a youth and their young family's progress after the youth has received safety and resource referrals. (For purposes of this announcement.)

GATEWAY SERVICES: Services to provide food, drink, clothing, and hygiene-related items to meet basic needs and develop trust between a youth and youth outreach worker. (For purposes of this announcement.)

HARM REDUCTION: The provision of basic needs and services (e.g., education, referrals, case management, shelter) that aim to reduce adverse health, social, and economic consequences of high-risk behaviors to include reducing the risk of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, assault, or substance use. (For purposes of this announcement.)

HEALTH CARE SERVICES: Physical, mental, behavioral, and dental health services. It includes services provided to runaway and homeless youth and in the case of MGH also includes services provided to a pregnant youth and the child(ren) of the youth. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

Where applicable and allowable within a program, it includes information on appropriate health-related services provided to family or household members of the youth. Any treatment or referral to treatment that aims to change someone's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression is prohibited. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

HOMELESS YOUTH: An individual who cannot live safely with a parent, guardian, or relative, and who has no other safe alternative living arrangement. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

INTAKE: A process for gathering information to assess eligibility and the services required to meet the immediate needs of the client. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM: Agencies that include, but are not limited to, juvenile courts, correctional institutions, detention facilities, law enforcement, training schools, or agencies that use probation, parole, and/or court ordered confinement. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

OUTREACH: Finding runaway, homeless, and street youth, or youth at risk of becoming runaway or homeless, who might not use services due to lack of awareness or active avoidance, providing information to them about services and benefits, and encouraging the use of appropriate services. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

PERMANENT CONNECTIONS: Ongoing attachments to families or adult role models, communities, schools, and other positive social networks that support young people's ability to access new ideas and opportunities that support thriving, and provide a social safety net when young people are at-risk of re-entering homelessness. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

REINTEGRATION SERVICES: The connection of youth and their young family's with services to promote their long-term well-being and self-sufficiency, including resource plans and case

management services for substance abuse, mental health, education, community connections, employment, transportation, income security, identity papers, and housing. (For purposes of this announcement.)

RESOURCE PLAN: Plans usable by youth that may include, but are not limited to, knowing where to call for resources or help, support for dealing with family conflict or emotional stress, information on education, information or referral to community resources such as substance abuse counseling, education, employment, and housing. (For purposes of this announcement.)

RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS: Factors that are measurable characteristics of a youth and their young family that can occur at multiple levels, including biological, psychological, family, community, and cultural levels, that precede and are associated with an outcome. Risk factors are associated with higher likelihood of problematic outcomes, and protective factors are associated with higher likelihood of positive outcomes. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

RUNAWAY YOUTH: An individual who is less than 18 years of age and who absents himself or herself from home or a place of legal residence without the permission of a parent or legal guardian. (Section 387(4) of the RHY Act, 34 U.S.C. § 11279(4))

SAFE AND APPROPRIATE EXITS: Settings that reflect achievement of the intended purposes of the TLP as outlined in section 382(a) of the Act. Examples of Safe and Appropriate Exits are exits: (1) to the private residence of a parent, guardian, another adult relative, or another adult that has the youth's best interest in mind and can provide a stable arrangement; (2) to another residential program if the youth's transition to the other residential program is consistent with the youth's needs; or (3) to independent living if consistent with the youth's needs and abilities. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

SAFE AND APPROPRIATE EXITS ARE NOT EXITS: (1) To the street; (2) to a locked correctional institute or detention center if the youth became involved in activities that lead to this exit after entering the program; (3) to another residential program if the youth's transition to the other residential program is inconsistent with the youth's needs; or (4) to an unknown or unspecified other living situation. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

SAFETY PLAN: Plans usable by youth that may include, but are not limited to, knowing a trusted adult to call in an emergency, learning how to recognize and avoid unsafe situations and people, and avoiding maladaptive coping mechanisms, including risky sexual behavior or criminal behavior. (For purposes of this announcement.)

SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT: Valid and reliable standardized instruments and practices used to identify each youth's individual strengths and needs across multiple aspects of health, well-being, and behavior in order to inform appropriate service decisions and provide a baseline for monitoring outcomes over time. Screening involves abbreviated instruments, for example with trauma and health problems, which can indicate certain youth for more thorough diagnostic assessments and service needs. Assessment, which is used here to mean assessment more broadly than for the purposes of diagnosis, involves evaluating multiple aspects of social, emotional, and behavioral competencies and functioning in order to inform service decisions and monitor outcomes. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

SHELTER: A fully licensed homeless shelter or host homes or a stable housing situation. (For

purposes of this announcement.)

SHORT-TERM TRAINING: The provision of local, state, or regionally based instruction to runaway or otherwise homeless youth service providers in skill areas that will directly strengthen service delivery. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

STABLE HOUSING: A safe and reliable place to call home. Stable housing fulfills a critical and basic need for homeless youth. It is essential to enable functioning across a range of life activities. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

STREET-BASED SERVICES: Services provided to runaway, homeless, and street youth in areas where they congregate, designed to assist those youth in making healthy personal choices regarding where they live and how they behave. (Section 387(5) of the RHY Act, 34 U.S.C. § 11279(5))

STREET YOUTH: An individual who is a runaway youth or is indefinitely or intermittently a homeless youth who spends a significant amount of time on the street or in other areas that increase the risk for sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, prostitution, or drug and/or alcohol abuse. For the purposes of this definition, youth means an individual who is age 21 or less. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: The provision of expertise or support for the purpose of strengthening the capabilities of grantee organizations to deliver services. (45 CFR § 1351.1)

UNDUPLICATED YOUTH: The number of runaway and homeless youth and their young family served by a RHY grantee within a specified time period. An unduplicated count ensures that youth are counted only once regardless of the number of contacts by the RHY grantee. (For purposes of this announcement.)