DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Community Services

[Program Announcement No. OCS-95-07]

Request for Applications Under the Office of Community Services' FY 1995 Family Support Center and Gateway Demonstration Programs

AGENCY: Administration for Children and Families (ACF) DHHS.

ACTION: Announcement of availability of funds and request for applications under the Office of Community Services' FY 1995 Family Support Center and Gateway Demonstration Programs.

SUMMARY: The Office of Community Services (OCS) announces that competing applications will be accepted for Family Support Center and Gateway Demonstration projects authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, as amended (P.L. 103– 382). (See 42 U.S.C. 11481–11489.) CLOSING DATE: The closing date for submission of applications is April 20, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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This Announcement is accessible on the OCS Electronic Bulletin Board for downloading through your computer modem by calling 1–800–627–8886. For assistance in accessing the Bulletin Board, *A Guide to Accessing and Downloading* is available from Ms. Minnie Landry at (202) 401–5309.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Family Support Center Program, the Office of Community Services will make grants to eligible entities to pay for the cost of demonstration programs designed to prevent family homelessness through the provision of intensive and comprehensive supportive services to previously homeless individuals and families residing in subsidized public housing or those at risk of homelessness. Services to infants, children and youths shall be designed to enhance their physical, social and educational development and include an array of appropriate services that address the causes and deleterious effects of homelessness. Services to parents and other family members shall be designed to contribute to their child(ren)'s healthy development and to the acquisition of skills and resources

that can prevent homelessness and move the family toward self-sufficiency. All services provided shall be coordinated through the auspices of an organized case management program and include necessary and appropriate services that address the economic and housing needs of the "low-income and very low-income" client families.

Under the Gateway Demonstration Program, grants will be provided to local education agencies to provide onsite education, training and necessary support services to economically disadvantaged residents of public housing. Applicants, in consultation with the local public housing authorities and private industry councils, will design such demonstration programs to increase literacy levels and basic employment skills among residents of public housing developments.

Eligible applicant entities for the Family Support Center Demonstration Program are limited to State and local government agencies, Head Start agencies and any community-based organization of demonstrated effectiveness such as a Community Action Agency designated under section 210 of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 2790), public housing agencies as defined in section 3(b)(6) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(6)), State Housing Finance Agencies, local education agencies, an institution of higher education, a public hospital, a community development corporation, a private industry council as defined under section 102(a) of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA)(29 U.S.C. 1512(a)), a community health center, and any other public or private nonprofit organizations specializing in the provision of social services.

Eligible applicant entities for the Gateway Demonstration Program are limited to local education agencies in consultation with public housing authorities and private industry councils. Such programs will provide required services as outlined in Part III, Section B.

Availability of Funds and Grant Amounts

1. OCS is statutorily limited to funding no more than 25 Family Support Center Demonstration grants for a period not to exceed three years. Approximately \$7 million is available to support grant awards under this program announcement.

Under the Family Support Center Demonstration Program legislation, grants must be for a minimum amount of \$200,000 per year for a total of at least \$600,000 for the maximum project period of three years, and the maximum grant support allowable for a three-year project period is \$2,000,000.

Pursuant to this Announcement, OCS plans to make up to approximately \$4.3 available to fund up to 14 new grants with three year project periods and budget periods of 17-months for not less than \$283,000 each and averaging approximately \$310,000 per grantee. Applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the 17-month budget period but within the three year project period will be entertained in subsequent years on a non-competitive basis, subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the grantee, and determination that this would be in the best interest of the government.

OCS expects to make \$2,000,000 available to fund 10 competitive 12month renewal grants. Current grantees completing their second year of Family Support Center Demonstration Programs are eligible to compete for renewal grants for a maximum of twelve additional months of support. This will allow these projects to complete a full three year program as a demonstration project.

2. OCS plans to fund 5 three-year Gateway Demonstration projects for a first-year budget period of up to \$125,000 each.

Part I: General Information—Family Support Center Demonstrations

A. Program Purpose

The Family Support Center Demonstration Program is an integral part of an HHS/HUD, White House and Interagency Council for the Homeless initiative to encourage and test integrated services delivery approaches to reducing homelessness among families with children. The purpose of this demonstration is to develop and operate Family Support Centers which can intervene to prevent family homelessness. The program supports the Family Support Center's efforts to coordinate and integrate its activities with State and local public and private agencies in providing improved assistance to this at-risk population. Using a coordinated case management approach, Family Support Centers should provide a comprehensive array of family oriented services to prevent initial occurrences of homelessness and to combat the effects of previous homelessness and to prevent its recurrence.

Family Support Centers, through the provision of a comprehensive array of supportive social services using