progress of the grantee and determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the government.

Part II: Guidelines for Family Support Center Demonstration Project Plans and Applications

A. Grant Objectives

The objectives of the grants funded under the Family Support Center Demonstration Program are: the enhancement of the living conditions of low and very low income families; the improvement of the physical, social and educational development of low and very low income children and families served by the program; the achievement of progress towards increased potential for independence and self-sufficiency among families served; the reduction in the rate of repeated incidences of homelessness among center clientele: and a decrease in the incidence of first time homelessness among community participants.

B. Project Design

The Family Support Center Demonstration Program is intended to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of family homelessness by providing an intensive and comprehensive array of supportive and other services. This announcement prescribes no single model, however, for designing, staffing, or delivering the services of such a program. Its purpose is to stimulate eligible entities to demonstrate the effectiveness of innovative models or approaches which will offer value to both the client population selected and the social services providers in the community. It invites applicants to propose structures and mechanisms for delivering services that are unique to the community and the clientele that they serve, and to propose a program and an approach that replace the goal of client maintenance with one of transformation of families to a position of self-sufficiency.

The center should create a centralized point for the provision of these services and facilitate access to various service providers in the community. The center should provide active family case management and assist clients in maintaining a stable household and assist them in achieving self-sufficiency. Further, the center should assist in joining the case management functions offered by other service providers to render coordinated family case management. The center should tie together service providers in the community and organize a means to reduce duplication of effort in response

to their potentially or previously homeless clientele; and, to reduce the administrative and programmatic burdens that often are placed upon the client population.

To accomplish these goals, applicants are expected to have, in addition to the ability to provide a core of essential services, the capacity to coordinate, link and otherwise organize a cadre of existing providers and to propose a program and an approach that replace the goal of client maintenance with one of transformation to self-sufficiency. A **Family Support Center Demonstration** program should also include coordination and linkage with existing Federal, State and locally sponsored social services and housing programs such as the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), AFDC/JOBS program and the varied programs of the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Education.

Each Family Support Center Demonstration Program applicant is required to exhibit the following:

- —the capacity to administer a comprehensive support services program directed toward an identified target population;
- —the geographic proximity of the facility to the families to be served or the ability to provide mobile or offsite services;
- —the ability to coordinate and integrate its activities with State and local public agencies (such as agencies responsible for education, employment and training, health and mental health services, substance abuse services, social services, child care, nutrition, income assistance, housing and energy assistance, and other relevant services), with public or private non-profit agencies and organizations that have a demonstrated record of effectiveness in providing assistance to homeless and at risk families, and with appropriate non-profit private organizations involved in the delivery of eligible support services;
- —the fiscal and administrative capacities to conduct a complex, comprehensive and intensive service delivery program;
- the involvement of project participants and community representatives in the planning and operation of the program;
- —the utilization and proximity of available comparable Community Action Agency services, unless the applicant is the CAA and intends to expand its existing services;
- —the provision of coordinated family case management services which

- direct all respective case management activities through a team approach;
- —use of not more than 7 percent of their grant award to improve the retention and effectiveness of staff and volunteers:
- —the participation in an ongoing evaluation mechanism to address process and outcome issues as they relate to the efficacy and efficiency of the demonstration program; and
- —the establishment and provision of necessary staff to support an advisory body representing the community, providers and target population. The advisory council must include a participant of the program as an active member.

The operating and organizational structure of the program should include a range of agreements with community services providers that responds to the assessed needs of the client populations. These agreements are essential to the success of the project. The program seeks to attract prospective grantees with written agreements either in place at the time of application or able to be in place within 60 days of the grant award. This is to assure an accelerated provision of services to the clients. In those cases where additional services are to be added to existing service patterns, the grantee will provide timetables for the inclusion of these added services. Prospective grantees will have a combination of existing and potential agreements and affiliations for services. It is recommended that the program include affiliations with entities that support and enlarge its service providing role. This may include affiliations with the academic community, such as schools of social work, that may provide a source of staff resources, student/intern placements and a site for scholastic investigation, evaluation and research.

Most importantly, applicants must be closely identified with and located within circumscribed geographical boundaries that coincide with the location and residences of the target population. This catchment area concept should be reflected in the physical location of the project which should be readily accessible to the target population. This in no way limits the possible configurations for project locus. Instead, it permits a range of possibilities that is consistent with the residential pattern of the target population. While the project is most likely to be physically located in or near the place(s) where its target population lives, it is conceivable that its administrative functions may be off-site or co-located with parent agencies.