Information System (RHYMIS) across three FYSB programs: the BCP, the TLP, and the DAPP. In FY 1993, using an existing computer-based, information gathering protocol, the contractor began providing training and technical assistance to these grantees in the use of the RHYMIS. The data generated by the system will be used to produce reports and information regarding the programs, including information for the required reports to Congress on each of the three programs. The RHYMIS is also designed to serve as a management tool for FYSB and for the individual programs.

It is anticipated that optional continuation funding for the RHYMIS will be provided in FY 1995 and FY 1996.

4. Monitoring Support for FYSB Programs

In FY 1992, FYSB began developing a comprehensive monitoring instrument and set of site visit protocols, including a peer-review component for the BCP, the TLP, and the DAPP. Pilot implementation of the instrument and related protocols began in FY 1993. Also in FY 1993 a new contract to provide logistical support for the peer review monitoring process was awarded, including nationwide distribution of the new materials. Use of the new instrument and peer review process during the first full year of operation has resulted in identification of a number of strengths and weaknesses among individual grantees. These findings have been used by the Regional T&TA providers as a basis for their activities.

It is anticipated that continuation funding for the logistical contractor will be provided in FY 1995 and that a new contract for the effort may be solicited in FY 1996.

5. Research and Demonstration Initiatives

Section 315 of the Act authorizes the Department to make grants to States, localities, and private entities to carry out research, demonstration, and service projects designed to increase knowledge concerning and to improve services for runaway and homeless youth. These activities are important in order to identify emerging issues and to develop and test models which address such issues.

## a. Services for Youth in Rural Areas

Because of geographic distances, population density and, in some cases, cultural differences, it is difficult to provide effective services to runaway and homeless youth in rural areas. In many such areas, scarcity of funds and other resources precludes funding of

separate, autonomous Basic Center programs. The need exists for innovative and effective models for the provision of runaway and homeless youth services in rural areas, including Indian reservations. The new models would make services accessible to youth without setting up inordinately expensive service agencies in low populated areas. In FY 1993, first-year funding was awarded to eight grants to develop such models. Continuation funding was provided in FY 1994, and it is anticipated that final continuation funding of these grants will be provided in FY 1995.

b. Analysis, Synthesis, and Interpretation of New Information Concerning Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

Over the past few years, considerable new knowledge and information has been developed concerning the runaway and homeless youth programs administered by FYSB, and concerning the youth and families served. The main sources of this new information are the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS) and a number of evaluation studies underway or recently completed. The RHYMIS and the evaluation studies contain descriptions of FYSB's grantee agencies, along with detailed data on the youth and families served, such as demographic profiles, presenting problems, services provided, and service outcomes. There is need for analysis, synthesis, and interpretation of this new information, leading to development of comprehensive plans and policies for the Family and Youth Services Bureau.

A contract may be considered in FY 1995 to analyze, synthesize, and develop the program and policy implications of the new information now becoming available. The study would be developed within a context of the most significant, current comprehensive theories of youth development, drawing from the fields of physical and mental health, biology, psychology, sociology, education, and preparation for careers and family life. Proposals to conduct the study would be solicited from the eight Master Contractors for the "Policy and Program Studies" consortium recently established by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

## c. Consolidated Youth Services Demonstration Grants

The Family and Youth Services Bureau now administers three programs targeting runaway and homeless youth: the BCP, the TLP, and the DAPP. Each

program was established independently by the Congress, each to address a specific need or problem related to runaway and homeless youth. Funds for each program are appropriated annually by the Congress and are awarded to individual grantees across the country following submission and review of separate applications. In practice, there is considerable overlap among the populations and problems addressed by the separate programs as well as considerable overlap among the granteeadministrators of the local projects; some grantees administer two of the three programs (BCP and DAPP, for example) and a few administer all three programs.

The overlap among targeted youth populations and youth services grantees suggests that program efficiency and coordination might be improved by consolidating the three programs into one, setting up in their stead comprehensive youth services programs designed to address the broad range of needs of at-risk runaway and homeless youth populations. An obvious immediate benefit would be that applicants wishing to provide services in all three areas would have to submit only one application instead of the three now required.

To this end, ACYF may consider funding in FY 1995 four to six "Consolidated Youth Services Demonstration Grants," each for a fourvear project period and each at a funding level of \$325,000 to \$400,000 per year. Applicants would be invited to design and, if successful in the competition, to implement youth service models combining features of the BCP, the DAPP, and the TLP. Successful applicants would, in fact, be required to provide in their respective geographic areas the complete array of services mandated for the three programs and to coordinate these services through a single administration. In consequence, it would be appropriate to fund these demonstration grants from the regular BCP, DAPP, and TLP appropriations from the Congress. Further, grantees funded from consolidated BCP, DAPP, and TLP appropriations must be able to show that the funds from each appropriation were expended to serve the purposes of that appropriation. Each grantee would document the advantages and disadvantages of the consolidated approach and would participate in a comprehensive evaluation of the projects.