

knowledge can be brought to bear on the proposed research; and (4) how the research would benefit various audiences. Applicants are expected to provide a review of relevant literature which is sufficient to demonstrate their understanding of important issues, variables, methods, and findings. The literature review must include previous work of the author(s) of the proposal. A list of references must be included.

This section of the narrative must address issues related to (a) low-income populations and the challenges they face; (b) the structure and dynamics of child care demand and supply as these factors relate to low-income children and families; and (c) the ways in which welfare and child care services interact in creating opportunities or constraints for the populations they serve. Applicants should address these issues in terms of their proposed research, explaining their reasoning, suggesting lines of inquiry, and developing their hypotheses.

Applicants should clearly show how their proposed research will build on the current knowledge base and contribute to policy, practice and future research. The proposal is expected to demonstrate understanding of current welfare and child care policies and programs, to show how the proposed research would further such understanding, and to suggest practical applications which might be derived from the findings. Applicants are asked to consider the significance, reliability, and validity of existing data for questions of interest to the Child Care Research Partnerships. In addition, applicants should identify important gaps in the literature and areas in which findings are contradictory or ambiguous.

If ongoing studies or pilot research identified in the review will be included in the proposed design, applicants should describe how such studies would be utilized in the proposed research and how they would foster ACYF child care research goals.

If especially important data bases from completed studies are identified, applicants are asked to suggest ways in which such data could be analyzed or otherwise utilized. It will also be important to consider what demographic, economic, and social data are available as context for the proposed research. Applicants should describe how data from the Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and other statistical organizations can be used to help profile market parameters and trends.

C. Technical Approach

The Technical Approach section of the Project Narrative Statement details a specific research design and implementation plans. This section should address three broad areas: (1) research methodology; (2) management and quality control; and (3) collaborative strategy.

1. Research Methodology

The methodological discussion must include technical details of the proposed research design, including specific research questions, variables and data sources, sampling and data collection or compilation (including selection of client records or construction of subsamples from data tapes), statistical analysis, and reporting. Applicants are asked to lay out a research design for examining the relationships between selected issues, questions, variables, and data elements (Applicants may include a chart showing these linkages). In addition, applicants should discuss the strengths and limitations of all proposed data sources, samples, and techniques for this research.

Applicants should fully address technical considerations appropriate to their proposed design:

- If secondary analyses are to be conducted on completed data sets, describe the appropriateness and limitations of the original research for this study. Describe the nature, scope and representativeness of the original sample and characteristics of the data (including data quality). Describe hypotheses to be tested, variables to be analyzed, the unit of analysis to be employed, analytic procedures, and limitations of the data base for the proposed study.
- If data will be compiled from service delivery records of State or local agencies, from resource and referral files, from records maintained by child care facilities, or from other primary data sources, describe the nature of the data and how it would be accessed, what sampling procedure would be employed, how confidentiality of individual records would be maintained, and how the data would be processed and analyzed.
- If the proposed project involves linkage with ongoing research, describe the ongoing research design and stage of progress, how the applicant's proposed study would benefit from and contribute to it, how the technical aspects of the linkage would be structured and carried out, and how the linked studies would address the goals of this announcement.
- If new data are to be collected on human subjects in conjunction with

another ongoing study (e.g., adding a component to a survey) discuss the benefits of and justify this approach. Describe the characteristics of the target population and provide a rationale for any sample stratification based on personal characteristics of individuals (such as ethnicity, income, marital status, age of child, etc.). Describe data collection procedures and safeguards for data quality. Discuss procedures to protect human subjects, maintain confidentiality of data, and obtain consent for participation (if applicable).

- Include a detailed plan for the processing and analysis of data from all sources which illustrates how the analysis will meet the goals of this research. Discuss the processing of data for analysis, including the procedures which will be used to ensure data quality, the preparation and documentation of data files and tapes, and the archiving of data for analysis by other researchers. Discuss plans for the analysis of data, including units of analysis, analytic techniques to be used with various types of data, statistical considerations, and the linkage of data sets.

- Include a product development and dissemination plan which describes the products to be generated during the course of this research (such as technical papers or reports, summaries, briefings, conference presentations, doctoral dissertations, journal articles, archival data tapes, data documentation, software, and the final report) and the steps that will be undertaken to disseminate and promote the utilization of products and findings. This plan should include a discussion of products which might be collaboratively developed or disseminated to effectively reach intended audiences.

2. Management and Quality Control

The applicant's approach must contain a sound and workable plan of action which describes in detail how the project will be carried out. This section should detail how the project will be structured and managed, how roles and functions will be coordinated, how the timeliness of activities will be ensured, and how quality control will be maintained. Applicants should discuss their management of the project as a whole, and the management roles of their partners. In particular, applicants are asked to provide the following information:

- Describe how an appropriate research and management team will be assembled, what expertise will be represented, how individuals will be selected, and what roles they will play (including consultants and advisors).