

H. Closed Captioning for Audiovisual Efforts

Applicants are encouraged to include "closed captioning" in the development of any audiovisual products.

Part IV. Fiscal Year 1995 Priority Areas for Projects of National Significance

The following section presents the final priority areas for Fiscal Year 1995 Projects of National Significance (PNS) and solicits the appropriate applications.

Fiscal Year 1995 Priority Area 1: ADD and ACYF, Family and Youth Services Bureau Collaboration Between Youth Service Providers and Disabilities Advocates to Enhance Services to Youth With Developmental Disabilities

- **Eligible Applicants:** Basic Center Programs for Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY), Transitional Living Programs for RHY, Drug Abuse and Prevention Programs for RHY, and Youth Gang Drug Prevention Programs currently funded by the Family and Youth Services Bureau and University Affiliated Programs, State Developmental Disabilities Councils, and Protection and Advocacy Programs currently funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

- **Purpose:** Under this priority area, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) and the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) will jointly award demonstration grant funds to foster collaboration between its grantee programs. The purpose of these grants will be to provide improved access to services and supports for youth with developmental disabilities who are at risk of running away or becoming involved in gang activities or delinquent behavior. Both ADD and FYSB are interested in applications that will support a youth development approach to serving young people. The FYSB encourages local youth service agencies to offer a holistic service approach that acknowledges young people's strengths and contributions while responding to their needs. ADD advocates for services that enable young people with developmental disabilities to live independently through employment. This goal is achieved by drawing on both the support of the community and the youth's own resources. Employment is an important outcome for all youth with developmental disabilities.

These projects, to be conducted jointly by ADD and FYSB funded grantees, would strengthen the ability of at-risk youth with developmental

disabilities (12–21 years of age) to achieve their full potential and grow to be successful, independent adults. Specifically, ADD and FYSB are seeking applications that explore methods for assisting their respective grantees to ensure access to appropriate services and supports by youth with developmental disabilities who participate in their programs.

- **Background Information:** Youth with developmental disabilities face enormous odds. Too often, as with all people with developmental disabilities, they lack the basics of American life: A good education, a job, and a real home. Tagged with diagnostic labels and segregated and discriminated against, many lack the information, assistance, and support they need to make informed choices. Their abilities are not recognized; and their differences set them apart, even from family members who love them but cannot afford or manage their special needs. Situations such as these increase the odds that youth with developmental disabilities will join the ranks of other runaway and homeless youth and youth involved in gangs or negative behaviors, thereby increasing their vulnerability.

To address these needs, FYSB and ADD established a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance coordination between the two agencies with the goal of increasing access to generic and specialized services for youth with developmental disabilities.

The FYSB administers the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, the Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth, the Drug Abuse Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth, and the Youth Gang Drug Prevention Program. These programs were created in response to widespread concern about the alarming number of runaway and homeless youth and youth at-risk of gang involvement. Today, an estimated 500,000 to 1.5 million youth run away from, or are forced out of their homes, and an estimated 200,000 are homeless. While there are no reliable estimates of youth at-risk of becoming involved or involved in gangs, all States have reported the rise of youth gangs and their illegal activities.

ADD grantees are involved in a variety of State and local efforts which specifically address this population. For example, addressing the transition of youth from school to the workplace is a priority for virtually all State Developmental Disabilities Councils. The Protection and Advocacy agencies advocate for the inclusion of youth with disabilities in regular classrooms and

other community activities. In addition, University Affiliated Programs have as one of their mandated activities the provision of training and technical assistance to community agencies serving individuals with developmental disabilities, including youth.

FYSB and ADD are accepting applications developed jointly by at least one ADD and one FYSB funded grantee to demonstrate the need for and effectiveness of collaborations between the FYSB and ADD grantee programs to enable at-risk youth with developmental disabilities to make a successful transition from adolescence to adulthood.

Agencies interested in submitting applications under this priority area should contact FYSB at (202) 205–8060 or ADD at (202) 690–6897 for information regarding their respective programs and existing grantees.

- **Minimum Requirements for Project Design:** These projects must be conducted collaboratively between at least one ADD and one FYSB-funded grantee. Both collaborating agencies must be located in the same or neighboring communities to facilitate collaboration. Collaborations should be functional; letters of agreement are not enough. Each collaborating agency should be actively involved and should provide an essential component of service to the program.

Applications should be culturally sensitive, family based, and community focused. The population to be served by the projects should include both youth who are and who are not at-risk of running away from home or becoming involved in gang activity or delinquent behavior. In addition, both youth who have and who do not have a developmental disability should be included in the target population.

ADD and FYSB are particularly interested in supporting projects which plan to undertake the following activities:

- Improve coordination of services through increased networking and information sharing among Federal, State, and local organizations involved in providing services. These efforts should include all stakeholders, with at-risk youth and their families at the center of the collaborative partnerships.
- Identify existing programs that are providing effective services to at-risk youth with developmental disabilities.
- Enhance service delivery through the identification of the risks, issues, problems and needs of at-risk youth with developmental disabilities.
- Enhance service delivery through the identification of the existing barriers to full collaborative partnerships