1.01 Head Start/University Partnerships—Translating Research into Practice
1.02 Support for Graduate Students: The Head Start Research Scholars Program
1.03 Research Centers on Head Start Quality
1.04 Head Start Fellows Program
1.05 Head Start Emergent Literacy Project
1.06 Supporting Parent Roles in Children's Learning Environments

For priority areas 1.01 and 1.02, we will be using the grant funding mechanism. For priority areas 1.03, 1.04, 1.05 and 1.06 we are seeking partners with whom we will enter into a cooperative agreement funding mechanism.

A cooperative agreement is a funding mechanism which allows substantial Federal involvement in the activities undertaken with Federal financial support. Details of the responsibilities, relationships, and governance of the cooperative agreement will be spelled out in the terms and conditions of the award. The specific responsibilities of the Federal staff and project staff will be identified and agreed upon prior to the award of each cooperative.

A. Structure of Priority Area Descriptions

Each priority area description is composed of the following sections:

• Eligible Applicants—This section specifies the type of organization which is eligible to apply under the particular priority area.

• Purpose—This section presents the basic focus and/or broad goal(s) of the priority area.

• Background Information—This section briefly discusses the legislative background and or the social context that supports the need for this particular priority area.

• Project Implementation—(Priority 1.03 only)

• Minimum Requirements for Project Design—This section presents the basic set of issues that must be addressed in the application. Typically, they relate to project design, evaluation and community involvement. This section also asks for specific information on the proposed project.

• Project Duration—This section specifies the maximum allowable length of time for the project period; it refers to the amount of time for which Federal funding is available

• Federal Share of Project Costs— This section specifies the maximum amount of Federal support for the project.

• Matching Requirement—This section specifies the minimum in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions are defined as the value of non-cash contributions provided by non-Federal third parties. Third party in-kind contributions may be made in the form of real property, equipment, supplies and other expendable property, and the value of goods and services directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to the project.

• Anticipated Number of Projects to be Funded—This section specifies the number of projects that ACYF anticipates it will fund in the priority area.

• CFDA—This section identifies the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number and title of the program under which applications in this priority area will be funded.

B. Priority Areas

1.01 Head Start/University Partnerships—Translating Research Into Practice

Eligible Applicants: Universities and four-year colleges.

Purpose: To conduct research on practices that enhance children's cognitive or social-emotional development or support families to maximize their children's development. The products of this research should be of immediate usefulness to Head Start programs and other child and family development programs.

Background Information: Because of its role as a national laboratory, Head Start has an interest in assisting in the development of best practices in child and family development which are based on scientifically sound research.

Also, because of its recognition as a national, federally-sponsored program, and the access it provides to a multi-cultural, low-income population, Head Start has been a major source of research. This research, which has been conducted both with federal support and other resources, constitutes a significant portion of the child development research literature that includes low-income and multi-cultural populations.

In the main, this ever-increasing body of literature contains studies that fall into the domains of basic research and evaluation. Although these studies have made a significant contribution to our scientific, policy and general program knowledge, very little has reached service providers in terms of implementable applications within the context of their programs. Therefore, with the increase in our knowledge base, there is a concomitant increase in

the gap between research and its translation into practice.

Within this priority area, ACYF is interested in funding projects that translate research into practice in partnership with the staff and families of Head Start programs. In addition to the translation of research into practice, these partnerships are intended to demonstrate new ways of conducting research where the researchers, the program staff and program families work as a cooperative research team.

Projects under this priority area will: (1) Test approaches intended to enhance children's cognitive or social-emotional development or to support families toward maximizing their children's development, and (2) train program staff both in the direct use of the approach and in the training of other staff. These approaches may include those where the child, the family as the mediating influence of child outcomes, or both the primary caregivers and the child are targeted. The chosen approach should reflect theory and previous research. In particular, if a family support approach is selected, the theoretical links between the particular support mechanisms and maximum child development should be clearly delineated.

In addition, the approach may be developed for appropriate use with either infants and toddlers or preschool children.

Minimum Requirements for Project Design: In order to compete successfully under this priority area, the applicant must:

• Identify the area of cognitive development, social-emotional development or family support to be enhanced by the particular approach that will be developed or modified.

• Place the proposed project in the context of previous research, theory or existing knowledge. A strong and convincing rationale for the need for the proposed project should be provided that is supported by research evidence and results from any relevant planning studies, pilot studies, or other preparatory work conducted by the applicant.

• Describe the research design which includes a research paradigm appropriate for the particular study; the way in which the program staff and parents will be incorporated as part of the research team for the design and conduct of the study; the measures that will be used to determine child and family outcomes on the particular attributes of cognitive development, social-emotional development or family support under study.

• Describe the approach that will be undertaken to implement the project's