

[Program Announcement CRS-95-02]**Shelter Care and Child Welfare Services to Alien Unaccompanied Minors; Availability of Funding for Cooperative Agreements**

AGENCY: Community Relations Service (CRS), DOJ.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Funding for Cooperative Agreements to support a program which provides shelter care and other related child welfare services to alien minors detained in the custody of the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

SUMMARY: This announcement governs the award of Cooperative Agreements to public or private non-profit organizations or agencies, and, under certain conditions, to for-profit organizations or agencies, to provide shelter care and related child welfare services to alien minors detained in the custody of the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service. The programs providing such services shall hereafter be referred to as the Alien Unaccompanied Minors Shelter Care Programs (AUMSCPs).

AUMSCPs have the specific goal of providing shelter care and other related child welfare services to male and female alien minors under 18 years of age who are referred to the CRS by the INS. These child welfare services will afford alien minors a structured, safe and productive environment which meets or exceeds respective State guidelines and standards for similar services designed to serve minors in AUMSCP care and custody. Applications submitted pursuant to this announcement must plan for the delivery of services to a population of alien minors (8-10 beds in the San Francisco, California area; 24 beds in the Los Angeles, California area; and 24 beds in the San Diego, California area).

DATES: *Closing Date.* 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time; September 11, 1995.

APPLICATION REQUESTS AND CONTACT

PERSON: Eligible applicants may request Proposal Application Packages from the United States Department of Justice, Community Relations Service, Suite 330, 5550 Friendship Boulevard, Chevy Chase, Maryland, 20815; Attention: Orin McCrae, Grants Officer.

Proposal Application Packages may also be obtained by contacting CRS at (301) 492-5995, or FAX (301) 492-5984.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of the AUMSCPs is to provide temporary shelter care and other related services to alien minors in INS custody. Shelter care services will be provided for the interim period beginning when the minor is transferred into the AUMSCP and ending when a final disposition of the child's status is implemented. Final disposition may result in either the bond, release, or removal of the minor from the United States.

These minors, although released to the physical custody of the CRS Recipient, shall remain in the legal custody of the INS.

The population level of alien minors is expected to fluctuate as arrivals and case dispositions occur. Program content must, therefore, reflect differential planning of services to children in various stages of personal adjustment and administrative processing. Although the population of minors is projected to consist primarily of adolescents, the Recipient is expected to be able to serve some minors who are 12 years of age or younger.

The CRS Recipients are expected to facilitate the provision of assistance and services for each alien minor including, but not limited to: Physical care and maintenance, access to routine and emergency medical care, comprehensive needs assessment, education, recreation, individual and group counseling, access to religious services and other social services.

Other services that are necessary and appropriate for these minors may be provided if CRS determines in advance that the service is reasonable and necessary for a particular minor.

The Recipients are expected to develop and implement an appropriate individualized service plan for the care and maintenance of each minor in accordance with his/her needs as determined in an intake assessment. In addition, the Recipients are required to implement and administer a case management system which tracks and monitors clients' progress on a regular basis to ensure that each minor receives the full range of program services in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

Shelter care services shall be provided in accordance with applicable State child welfare statutes and generally accepted child welfare standards, practices, principles, and procedures. Services must be delivered in an open type of setting without a need for extraordinary security measures.

However, the Recipients are required to design programs and strategies to

discourage runaways and prevent the unauthorized absence of minors in care.

Service delivery is expected to be accomplished in a manner which is sensitive to the culture, native language, and needs of these children.

Application Review

Applications submitted by the closing date and meeting the requirements of this Notice will be competitively reviewed, evaluated, rated, and numerically ranked by an independent panel of experts on the basis of weighted criteria listed in this Notice. All final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Associate Director, Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs, Community Relations Service. The awards made are subject to the availability of funds and the concurrence of the Assistant Commissioner, Detention and Deportation, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Authorization

Authority for the provision of shelter care and related child welfare services to alien minors detained in the custody of the Immigration and Naturalization Service is contained in a Memorandum of Agreement and Cost Reimbursable Agreement, dated October 1, 1994, between the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Community Relations Service.

Legislative authority for CRS Cuban/Haitian Entrant child welfare activities is contained in Title V, Section 501(c), of Public Law 96-422 (The Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980).

Available Funds

Funds will be available on a Fiscal Year basis to support the number of shelters needed to provide 56-58 beds. The number of shelters to be funded will depend on the design of the programs proposed.

The awards made will not exceed a 36 month program performance period. Funding will be for 12 month budget periods. Continuation of funding is dependent upon successful completion of prior year objectives, the level of need as defined by the Federal Government, and the availability of future fiscal year funding.

The number of beds listed above do not bind CRS to any specific number of Cooperative Agreements or to any specific level of funding.

Award Instrument

The awards issued by CRS to support AUMSCP services will be in the form of Cooperative Agreements, as defined in the Federal Grant and Cooperative