

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE****Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention****[OJP (OJJDP)-1211]****RIN 1121-ZB45****Evaluation of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>****AGENCY:** Office of Justice Programs,  
Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention, Justice.**ACTION:** Notice of funding availability  
program announcement.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is requesting applications for the evaluation of the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> program. The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> program in diminishing the impact of risk factors, increasing the resiliency of parents and children, preventing and treating child abuse and neglect, and preventing juvenile delinquency.

**DATES:** Applications must be submitted by May 7, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The application kit is available from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 800-638-8736. The application kit can also be obtained online at OJJDP's Web site at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dean Hoffman, Program Manager, Research and Program Development Division, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 800 K Street, NW., 3d Floor, Washington, D.C. 20531; 202-353-9256. [This is not a toll-free number.]

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> is the oldest and largest national child abuse prevention program in America dedicated to family strengthening in partnership with local communities. From a single group in 1970, Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> has grown into more than 2,300 weekly mutual support groups for parents and complementary children's programs. In communities throughout the country, a strong partnership exists between local communities, affiliate organizations, and Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>, Inc., the national accrediting entity. With a 28-year history and more than 30,000 local volunteers, Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> worked with 100,000 parents and their children in 1997 to help prevent child abuse and neglect.

The Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> national network consists of 50 State and local affiliate organizations, which oversee weekly Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> groups and children's programs. Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>, Inc., provides training and technical assistance to affiliates, community-based organizations that are prospective affiliates, and State and local government agencies to foster the development and maintenance of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> groups. Program materials, technical assistance services, and regional and national trainings are designed and conducted by Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>, Inc.

Mutual support and shared leadership are the cornerstones of the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> program. Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> organizations partner in local communities with volunteers, agencies, and parents to establish groups to strengthen families. The program is both a community development model and a prevention and treatment model. Parent leaders have meaningful and identifiable roles at both the group and organizational levels to ensure shared leadership and the development of more responsive programs to meet the needs identified by families. This unique model actualizes the principles of mutual support and shared leadership not just in the program model but at the organizational level through the leadership roles of parents in effective outreach to other parents, program planning and implementation, strategic planning, fundraising, policy decisions, organizational governance, and evaluation activities. Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>, Inc., has set the stage for expanding parent leader roles throughout its organizational functions by creating the National Parent Leadership Team. This team co-trains, provides technical assistance, and develops program materials. Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> partners with parent leaders of diverse ethnic, geographic, gender, and cultural backgrounds at all levels of the national organization.

**Goals***Phase I*

- Determine the theoretical premises and principles that constitute the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> program model, assess how this model is being operationalized nationally, and identify the roles of parent participants, group facilitators, and program coordinators.

- Identify strategies, methods, and functions of parent leaders at the group, local, State, and national organizational levels of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>.

- Identify the factors that motivate parents to seek help and stay in the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> group and that help parents change. Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> staff members and participants and the Project Advisory Board (described below) will help identify other important factors to study.

*Phase II*

- Assess the effectiveness of the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> program in diminishing the impact of risk factors, increasing the resiliency of parents and children, preventing and treating child abuse and neglect, and preventing juvenile delinquency.

**Objectives***Phase I*

- Conduct a process evaluation to accomplish the above goals using appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods.

- Design an outcome evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> program in diminishing the impact of risk factors, increasing the resiliency of parents and children, preventing and treating child abuse and neglect, and preventing juvenile delinquency. The design must meet scientifically rigorous standards for evaluation and be able to be accomplished in Phase II. The evaluator must design and pilot test the instruments to be used.

- Produce an interim report describing the results of the process evaluation of the development and maintenance of groups and the implementation of the theoretical premises, principles, and model of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> 30 days prior to the end of Phase I. In addition, a summary version of this report suitable for publication as an Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Bulletin must be prepared.

*Phase II*

- Continue the process evaluation.
- Conduct the outcome evaluation.
- Produce a report describing the findings of the process and outcome evaluations. In addition, a summary version of this report suitable for publication as an OJJDP Bulletin must be prepared.

**Program Strategy**

This theory-driven evaluation will be conducted in two phases, each lasting 18 months. During Phase I, the process evaluation will measure the operationalization of the theoretical premises, principles, best practices, and model of the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>

program. Phase II of the study will explore the various factors that contribute to the program's effectiveness and develop survey instruments to measure outcomes related to both parents and their children. During Phase II, program outcomes and impacts will be measured using the design and data collection instruments developed during Phase I.

Phase I should result in an indepth understanding of why parents seek help, what helps them stay in Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>, how the program helps them change, what constitutes the key elements of a Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> group, and other relevant issues. Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> staff members and participants will be consulted regarding these other issues. The applicant must address cultural diversity issues in the design and implementation of both the process and outcome evaluation. The key concepts of mutual support and shared leadership and the premises of the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> model should be explored with a cross section of group participants, parent leaders, group facilitators, and program coordinators of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> organizations. The study will also explore the processes and strategies of parent leadership development at the group and organizational levels of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>. Furthermore, it is expected that a logic model will be developed to clarify the implementation of the theoretical bases of the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> program. Phase I should result in a survey of the number of families served, family composition, race and ages of children, and other descriptive information. Phase I also should document how families are referred to the program.

In preparation for Phase II, a major product of Phase I will be the design of the outcome study and survey instruments to evaluate the effectiveness of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> groups and parent leadership roles and functions in preventing and treating child abuse and neglect.

Applicants should become familiar with the theoretical framework that comprises the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> philosophy, principles, best practices, and program model. A Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> program package can be obtained through the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse by calling 800-638-8736. In addition, the applicant should demonstrate an understanding of the causes of child maltreatment, state-of-the-art community-based prevention programs, research on the effectiveness of family strengthening programs, and mutual support and self-help literature. The applicant's strategies for conducting

the process and outcome evaluation should reflect an understanding of the collaboration between Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>, Inc., and its regional and local organizations, shared leadership with program participants, and methodological issues related to evaluating mutual support programs and community-based prevention programming. Applicants must identify other theory-driven, multisite evaluations they have conducted and demonstrate their knowledge and skills in conducting them. Applicants should propose both qualitative and quantitative methods to achieve the goals set forth in this solicitation.

Applicants must demonstrate cultural sensitivity for parent participants and assure the confidentiality of information obtained from them.

This evaluation is to be, in part, a test of the theoretical premises, principles, and model of the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> program. To facilitate this theory-driven evaluation, the evaluator should develop a logic model to assess program goals, implementation and maintenance strategies, essential elements of the theory-driven model, and measurable outcome objectives.

Once the award is made, Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>, Inc., will introduce the evaluator and the evaluation to the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> national network, emphasize the usefulness of the evaluation, and encourage openness in sharing information, opinions, and ideas.

The grantee will work with staff of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>, Inc., to determine the scope and nature of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> organizations and types of groups; to promote the usefulness of the evaluation to Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> organizations, parents, and volunteers in order to assure their continued cooperation; to engage parent leaders, volunteers, and Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> program staff in helping identify relevant program issues; and to establish an overall collaborative relationship that will help ensure cooperation between the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> national network and the evaluator without affecting the integrity of the evaluation. It should be noted that a national database is currently under development. (The universe of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> programs will be represented, but specifics about the programs may not be.)

#### Project Advisory Board

A Project Advisory Board (PAB) will advise the evaluator regarding implementation issues, methodologies, feedback, instrumentation, and ways to

ensure cooperation and collaboration of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> groups based on the principle of shared leadership. The PAB will consist of five members. The evaluation grantee will be responsible for recommending four of the PAB members to OJJDP. The fifth member will be selected by OJJDP in consultation with Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>, Inc.

The applicant should recommend members who are evaluators with demonstrated expertise in the evaluation of multisite mutual support and self-help groups and child maltreatment programs and should also include two members from among parents, staff, and volunteers involved in the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> program. The applicant must include names of prospective members with evaluation experience with signed letters indicating their willingness to serve. (Parent, staff, and volunteer members will be identified after the award is made). Upon award, and with approval of OJJDP, members of the PAB will be appointed by the evaluator.

The PAB will be convened twice during Phase I. The first meeting will be held soon after the evaluator submits the final evaluation design. The PAB will be charged with reviewing the design and suggesting modifications. The second meeting will be held at the end of Phase I. At this meeting, the PAB will be charged with reviewing the process evaluation findings to that point, reviewing the impact evaluation design, and informing evaluation activities for the remainder of the project.

The applicant must propose a plan for coordinating both PAB meetings, one to be held in Washington, DC, and one in Claremont, CA. Also, the evaluator must include in its budget expenses for the meeting location, materials, travel and related expenses, and preparation day(s) for the PAB members.

Finally, the applicant must describe a plan for disseminating results in a user-friendly manner throughout both phases of the study.

#### Products

The following products will be delivered during Phase I:

1. Within 3 months of the grant award, the grantee will submit a final process evaluation design including data collection instruments.

2. Within 9 months of the grant award, the grantee will submit a draft outcome evaluation design including data collection instruments to be pilot tested. By the end of Phase I, the data collection instruments to be used in the outcome evaluation must have been

pilot tested and approved by the Office of Management and Budget under Paperwork Reduction Act regulations.

3. The grantee will provide an interim report describing the results of the process evaluation. This report should include descriptions of the implementation of the theoretical premises, principles, and model of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> and the development and maintenance of groups. This report will be submitted 30 days prior to the end of Phase I. In addition, a summary version of this report suitable for publication as an OJJDP Bulletin must be prepared.

During Phase II, the following products will be delivered:

1. The grantee will provide a draft final report incorporating the results of both the process and outcome evaluations. This report will be submitted at least 60 days prior to the end of the 3-year grant period to allow for review and comment by OJJDP.

2. The grantee will provide a final report, including an executive summary that can be published as a separate document. This document will be submitted 30 days prior to the end of the 3-year grant period. In addition, a summary version of this report suitable for publication as an OJJDP Bulletin must be prepared.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

OJJDP invites applications from public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, and individuals. Private, for-profit organizations must agree to waive any profit or fee. Joint applications from two or more eligible applicants are welcome; however, one applicant must be clearly indicated as the primary applicant (for correspondence, award, and management purposes) and the others indicated as coapplicants.

#### **Selection Criteria**

Applicants will be evaluated and rated by a peer review panel according to the criteria outlined below.

##### ***Problem(s) To Be Addressed (15 points)***

Applicants must include a clear and concise statement of their understanding of the nature and extent of child abuse and neglect and its prevention and treatment, mutual support programs, and Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>. Applicants should also discuss methodological issues and problems associated with this type of evaluation and proposed solutions for these potential problems. A thorough understanding of theory-driven evaluation, community-based child abuse prevention programs, and

multisite research of mutual support programs on a national level is vital.

##### ***Goals and Objectives (10 points)***

Applicants must define specific and measurable goals and objectives for coordinating, managing, and producing the products of this process and impact evaluation.

##### ***Project Design (35 points)***

The applicant must present a clear project design that delineates activities necessary to the accomplishment of the goals of this announcement along with a timetable for their accomplishment and for delivery of the required products. The applicant should demonstrate the ability to conduct the evaluation in a manner compatible with the shared leadership model and principles of mutual support that are the essence of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>. The applicant should also demonstrate that implementation of the design will not adversely affect the effective functioning of the parent groups or overburden the resources of the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> organizations, but will instead represent a true collaborative process with Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>. The applicant must describe how cultural diversity will be addressed in the research strategy.

##### ***Management and Organizational Capability (30 points)***

The application should include a discussion of how the grantee will coordinate and manage this evaluation to achieve the evaluation objectives. The applicant's management structure and staffing must be adequate and appropriate for the successful implementation of the project. The applicant must identify responsible individuals, their time commitment, and major tasks. Key staff should have significant experience with multisite evaluation research. They must demonstrate the ability to work effectively with parent leaders and program coordinators in data collection and analysis issues and other requirements of the project, and they must provide a role for Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> groups in the evaluation. Staff résumés should be attached as part of the appendixes. Research expertise and organizational experience with evaluation of mutual support programs and/or community-based child abuse and neglect prevention programs are important. There should be a demonstration of how cultural diversity issues have been addressed in research previously conducted by the applicant. The applicant organization should demonstrate expertise in theory-driven and collaborative evaluations.

##### ***Budget (10 points)***

The applicant must provide a proposed budget that is complete, detailed, reasonable, allowable, and cost effective in relation to the activities to be undertaken.

##### **Format**

The narrative portion of this application must not exceed 40 pages in length (excluding forms, assurances, and appendixes) and must be submitted on 8½ by 11-inch paper, double spaced on one side of the paper in a standard 12-point font. This is necessary to maintain fair and uniform standards among all applicants. If the narrative does not conform to these standards, OJJDP will deem the application ineligible for consideration.

##### **Award Period**

The project period will be 3 years, funded in two 18-month budget periods. Funding after the first budget period depends on grantee performance, availability of funds, and other criteria established at the time of award.

##### **Award Amount**

Up to \$300,000 is available for the initial 18-month budget period. The amount of continuation funding is expected to be at a comparable level for Phase II; however, it may be at a higher level, contingent upon the design and scope of the evaluation.

##### **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number**

For this program, the CFDA number, which is required on Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance, is 16.542. This form is included in OJJDP's Application Kit, which can be obtained by calling the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 800-638-8736 or sending an e-mail request to [puborder@ncjrs.org](mailto:puborder@ncjrs.org). The kit is also available online at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org>.

##### **Coordination of Federal Efforts**

To encourage better coordination among Federal agencies in addressing State and local needs, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is requesting applicants to provide information on the following: (1) active Federal grant award(s) supporting this or related efforts, including awards from DOJ; (2) any pending application(s) for Federal funds for this or related efforts; and (3) plans for coordinating any funds described in item (1) or (2) with the funding sought by this application. For each Federal award, applicants must include the program or project title, the Federal grantor agency, the amount of

the award, and a brief description of its purpose.

"Related efforts" is defined for these purposes as one of the following:

1. Efforts for the same purpose (i.e., the proposed award would supplement, expand, complement, or continue activities funded with other Federal grants).

2. Another phase or component of the same program or project (e.g., to implement a planning effort funded by other Federal funds or to provide a substance abuse treatment or education component within a criminal justice project).

3. Services of some kind (e.g., technical assistance, research, or evaluation) to the program or project described in the application.

#### Delivery Instructions

All application packages should be mailed or delivered to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, c/o Juvenile Justice Resource Center, 2277 Research Boulevard, Mail Stop 2K, Rockville, MD 20850; 301-519-5535. Note: In the lower left-hand corner of the envelope,

you must clearly write "Evaluation of Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>."

#### Due Date

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the original and five copies of the application package are received by 5 p.m. EST on May 7, 1999.

#### Contact

For further information call Dean Hoffman, Program Manager, Research and Program Development Division, 202-353-9256, or send an e-mail inquiry to hoffmand@ojp.usdoj.gov. Potential applicants should not directly contact Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup>, Inc., or any organizations in the Parents Anonymous<sup>SM</sup> national network.

#### Suggested References

- Belsky, J. 1993. Etiology of child maltreatment: A developmental-ecological analysis. *Psychological Bulletin* 114(3):413-434.
- Cohn, A.H. 1979. Essential elements of successful child abuse and neglect treatment. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 3:491-496.
- Cohn, A.H., and Daro, D. 1987. Is treatment too late: What ten years of evaluative research tells us. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 11:433-442.

Gray, E. 1986. *Child Abuse: Prelude to Delinquency*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Hawkins, J., VonCleve, E., and Catalano, R. 1991. Reducing early childhood aggression: Results of a primary prevention program. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* 30:208-217.

Humphreys, K., and Rappaport, J. 1994. Researching self-help/mutual aid groups and organizations: Many roads, one journey. *Applied & Preventive Psychology* 3:217-231.

Levine, M. 1988. An analysis of mutual assistance. *American Journal of Community Psychology* 19:167-187.

Riessman, F., and Carroll, D. 1995. *Redefining Self-Help: Policy and Practice*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.

Widom, C. 1991. Childhood victimization: Risk factor for delinquency. In *Adolescent Stress: Causes and Consequences*, edited by M. Colton and S. Gore. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

Dated: March 2, 1999.

#### Shay Bilchik,

Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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