

proposed program collaborates with and does not duplicate existing efforts.

2. Capacity (40 points)

Extent to which applicant describes adequate resources and facilities (both technical and administrative) to implement active surveillance systems for the three infectious agents, to identify and enroll individuals infected with one of the three infectious agents, to collect and safely transport biological specimens, to conduct laboratory methods necessary for evaluation persistence of infectious agent and for evaluation of cellular DNA and RNA. Extent to which the applicant documents that professional personnel involved in the project are qualified and have past experience and achievements in research related to that proposed as evidenced by curriculum vitae, publications, etc. If applicable, extent to which applicant includes letters of support from participating non-applicant organizations, individuals, etc., and the extent to which such letters clearly indicate the author's commitment to participate as described in the operational plan.

3. Objectives and Technical Approach (40 points total)

(a) Extent to which applicant describes measurable and time-phased objectives of the proposed project which are consistent with the purpose of the focus area being addressed. (10 points)

(b) Extent to which applicant presents a detailed operational plan for initiating and conducting the project which clearly and appropriately addresses all recipient activities for the specific programmatic focus area being addressed. Extent to which applicant clearly describes applicant's technical approach/methods for conducting the proposed studies and extent to which the approach/methods are feasible, appropriate, and adequate to accomplish the objectives. Extent to which applicant describes specific study protocols or plans for the development of study protocols that are appropriate for achieving project objectives. Extent to which applicant clearly describes collaboration with others during various phases of the project. (25 points)

(c) The degree to which the applicant has met the CDC Policy requirements regarding the inclusion of women, ethnic, and racial groups in the proposed research. This includes (1) the proposed plan for the inclusion of both sexes and racial and ethnic minorities, (2) the proposed justification when representation is limited or absent, (3) a statement as to whether the design of

the study is adequate to measure differences when warranted and (4) a statement as to whether the plans for recruitment and outreach for study participants include the process of establishing partnerships with community(ies) and recognition of mutual benefits. (5 points)

4. Evaluation

Extent to which applicant provides a detailed and adequate plan for evaluating progress toward achieving project process and outcome objectives. (5 points)

5. Budget (not scored)

Extent to which the line-item budget is detailed, clearly justified, and consistent with the purpose and objectives of this program.

6. Human Subjects (not scored)

Does the application adequately address the requirements of 45 CFR part 46 for the protection of human subjects?

H. Other Requirements

Technical Reporting Requirements

Provide CDC with an original plus two copies of the following:

1. Progress reports (annual);
2. financial status report, no more than 90 days after the end of the budget period; and
3. final financial and performance reports, no more than 90 days after the end of the project period.

Send all reports to the Grants Management Specialist identified in the "Where to Obtain Additional Information" section of this announcement.

The following additional requirements are applicable to this program. For a complete description of each, see Attachment I in the application kit.

- AR-1 Human Subjects Requirements
- AR-2 Requirements for Inclusion of Women and Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Research
- AR-7 Executive Order 12372 Review
- AR-10 Smoke-Free Workplace Requirements
- AR-11 Healthy People 2010
- AR-12 Lobbying Restrictions

I. Authority and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number

This program is authorized under section 301(a) and 317(k)(2) of the Public Health Service Act, [42 U.S.C. Sections 241(a) and 247b(k)(2)], as amended. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number is 93.283.

J. Where to Obtain Additional Information

This and other CDC announcements can be found on the CDC home page Internet address—<http://www.cdc.gov> Click on "Funding" then "Grants and Cooperative Agreements."

To receive additional written information and to request an application kit, call 1-888-GRANTS4 (1-888 472-6874). You will be asked to leave your name and address and will be instructed to identify the Announcement number of interest.

If you have questions after reviewing the contents of all the documents, business management technical assistance may be obtained from: Hank Eggink, Grants Management Specialist, Grants Management Branch, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, room 3000, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146, Telephone number 770-488-2740, Email address: hbe7@cdc.gov.

For program technical assistance, contact: Dr. Suzanne Vernon, Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA 30333, Telephone number 307-334-4096, Email address: sdv2@cdc.gov.

Dated: January 19, 2000.

John L. Williams,

Director, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[FR Doc. 01-2269 Filed 1-24-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Head Start and Early Head Start Grantees; Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), ACF, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Administration for Children and Families published a Notice in the **Federal Register** on November 9, 2000 (65 FR 67377) notifying interested parties that a Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment issued by ACF was available for review and comment. The document assesses the environmental impacts of activities undertaken by Head Start and Early Head Start grantees

when purchasing, renovating or constructing child care facilities with grant funds. This document was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and the Revised General Administration Manual, HHS Part 30, Environmental Protection. ACF received no comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment. The Agency has reviewed the conclusion of the Environmental Assessment (EA), and agrees with its findings. ACF has made a preliminary determination that regulations governing the purchase, construction and renovation of Head Start and Early Head Start child care centers will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment and that preparation of an environmental impact statement will not be necessary. A final finding of no significant impact will not be made until at least 30 days from the publication of this notice.

DATES: Written comments on this preliminary finding of no significant impact should be received February 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to comment on this finding of no significant impact may respond to writing to: Head Start PEA Team, The Mangi Environmental Group, 701 West Broad Street, Suite 205, Falls Church, Virginia 22046.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas Klafehn, Acting Associate Commissioner, Head Start Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20447; (202) 205–8572.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Head Start and Early Head Start are authorized under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9801 *et seq.*). It is a national program providing comprehensive developmental services to low-income preschool children, primarily from age three to the age of compulsory school attendance, and their families. Early Head Start programs enroll children from birth to three years old and pregnant women. To help enrolled children achieve their full potential, Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide comprehensive health, nutritional, educational, social and educational services. ACF has proposed amendments to existing Head Start regulations (44 CFR part 1309) to establish procedures for grantees to apply to use grant funds to cover the cost of constructing and making major renovations to Head Start and Early Head Start facilities and the steps

necessary to protect the federal interest in those facilities. The regulations at 45 CFR part 1309 currently establish procedures for grantees to request to use Head Start and Early Head Start grant funds to purchase facilities and to protect the federal interest in those facilities. The authority for use of Head Start and Early Head Start grant funds to purchase, construct or undertake major renovations is found in section 644 (f) and (g) of the Head Start Act.

ACF prepared and published for comment a Draft Environmental Assessment on November 9, 2000 (65 FR 67377). The alternative assessed included the Proposed Action, which would include the full range of authorized activities including facility purchase, new construction and major renovation. The Alternative Action to the Proposed Action assessed a more restrictive alternative in which only minor construction and renovations would be conducted. The No Action Alternative under which only incidental alterations and renovations would be conducted was also assessed. The assessment considered the Proposed Action, Alternative Action and the No Action Alternative and the effects of each on water quality, air quality, noise, land use, transportation, waste management, human health and safety, soils, vegetation and wildlife, wetlands, cultural resources, socioeconomic factors, environmental justice, recreation, aesthetics, public services and utilities.

ACF has chosen to implement the Proposed Action. Environmental resources may be affected by implementing the Proposed Action and these impacts are analyzed in the Programmatic Environmental Assessment. Given the nationwide nature of this Assessment and the variety of possible environmental conditions it was not deemed prudent to define the affected environment for all possible sites. Instead, the Assessment identifies circumstances which may result in significant impacts which must be avoided or mitigated when costs of purchasing, constructing or making major renovations to a Head Start or Early Head Start facility are met with grant funds. In the course of implementing the Proposed Action, there will be some impacts to environmental resources. Most of these impacts, however, are expected to be minimal, largely due to mitigating measures during the site selection, construction, operation and decommissioning phases. In many cases compliance with state, local and tribal regulations will lead to the avoidance of significant impacts, simply by requiring

mitigation or by leading the grantee to select a different site.

The Programmatic Environmental Assessment described the following possible significant impacts and means for mitigating them.

(a) *Water Quality*—An impact would be considered significant if effluent or pollutant emissions result in exposure of people, wildlife, or vegetation to surface or ground waters that do not meet the standards established under the Clean Water Act, or interfere with state water quality standards. Significant impacts on the environment from operation, construction or renovation will be mitigated by grantees adhering to all state, local and tribal regulations regarding zoning, planning and construction.

(b) *Air Quality*—An impact would be considered significant if pollutant emissions result in exposure of people, wildlife, or vegetation to ambient air that does not meet the standards established under the Clean Air Act, or interfere with state ambient air quality standards. Significant impacts on the environment will be mitigated by grantees adhering to all state, local and tribal regulations regarding construction and operational emissions.

(c) *Noise*—An impact would be considered significant if it resulted in exposure of sensitive receptors to a Day-Night Level (DNL) of greater than 65 A-weighted decibels (dBA). A significant impact on the environment from operation, renovation or construction sites can be mitigated by maintaining normal daylight hours for construction and normal operation. Significant impacts on the environment will be mitigated by grantees adhering to all state, local and tribal noise regulations.

(d) *Land Use*—An impact would be considered significant if the proposed action conflicted with any federal, regional, state, or local land use plans. If land use patterns are changed in the immediate project area due to the proposed action, the impact would also be considered significant. Significant impacts can be mitigated by requiring grantees to comply with state, local and tribal land use plans and ordinances.

(e) *Transportation*—An impact would be considered significant if there is a traffic increase, which is predicted to upset the normal flow of traffic, create the need for major road repair as a result of the action, or generate traffic levels requiring the expansion of existing roadways or facilities. Significant impacts can be mitigated by using flaggers on busy roads during construction phases. Transit can be subsidized if a facility is on a major road to discourage automobile use.

(f) *Waste Management*—An impact would be considered significant if there is an increase in the generation of solid or hazardous waste beyond the present facility capacity or new facility capacity to safely handle and dispose of that waste. Significant impacts will be mitigated by grantees adhering to state, local and tribal regulations and ordinances for waste management.

(g) *Human Health and Safety*—An impact would be considered significant if there is inadequate protection against serious injury to any worker or user during construction, maintenance, or operation of the project. Exposure to hazardous compounds or fumes at concentrations above health-based levels would be a significant impact. Significant impacts can be mitigated by making use of Head Start provided design guides, and by following state, local and tribal licensing requirements. Grantees will avoid new construction at sites with a history of hazardous material use or storage or sites near pollution sources. As required under 45 CFR 1304.22 all Head Start grantees must establish and implement policies and procedures to respond to medical and dental health emergencies with which all staff are familiar and trained. In addition all grantees are required to post emergency evacuation routes and other procedures for emergencies which are practiced regularly.

(h) *Soils*—An action would cause of significant impact if soil erosion produced gully, damage to vegetation, or a sustained increase in sedimentation in streams. An action would also constitute a significant impact if the action causes ground fracturing, folding, subsistence or instability. Impacts associated with soil contamination would be significant if the affected area was no longer able to support its current function or vegetable cover. Significant impacts will be mitigated by grantees adhering to all applicable state, local and tribal regulations.

(i) *Vegetation and Wildlife*—An action would cause a significant impact if the degradation or loss of habitat sufficient to cause indigenous populations to leave or avoid the area occurred. Significant impacts will be avoided by Head Start and Early Head Start grantees choosing sites which do not raise substantial biological concerns.

(j) *Wetlands*—An action would cause a significant impact if the soil structure, or water related hydrologic features or the vegetation of more than acre (1/10 ha) of a wetland would be altered, or a floodplain area is altered enough to present a reasonable flood danger to the area, or causes the degradation or loss

of habitat for populations indigenous to the floodplain area, or prohibits farming activities. Significant impacts will be avoided by Head Start and Early Head Start grantees choosing sites other than wetlands.

(k) *Cultural Resources*—An impact would be significant if an effect on a historic property occurs that may diminish the integrity of the historic property's location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling or association as set forth in 36 CFR 800.9. Significant impacts will be avoided by Head Start and Early Head Start grantees choosing sites which are not historic sites.

(l) *Socioeconomics*—A change of more than 2 percent of the previously projected level of local employment, population, or gross domestic product would be considered a significant impact. Also, if school populations decrease by more than 2 percent, revenues decrease by more than 2 percent and if the vacancy rate increased by more than 2 percent that would constitute a significant impact. Mitigation of significant impacts are not expected to be likely as the impacts in this area are considered to be positive.

(m) *Environmental Justice*—A significant impact would occur if a disproportionate number of minority and/or low income populations were adversely affected by the project. Mitigation of significant impacts are not expected to be necessary because facilities are not expected to have significant adverse environmental impacts.

(n) *Recreation*—Significant impacts on recreation facilities and resources would occur when the project conflicts with local, state or tribal recreation plans for the community, or a physical invasion by the project prevents current and/or future recreational use of adjacent properties. Significant impacts will be mitigated by including recreation sites in plans for child care centers to reduce reliance on public resources.

(o) *Aesthetics*—A significant impact would be the addition, into a predominantly natural setting, of incongruous human-made elements such as structures, noise, trash or pollutants, to the extent that they degrade the enjoyment of the setting for a majority of visitors or residents. Significant impacts will be mitigated by grantees adhering to with local or tribal ordinances and regulations on building appearance.

(p) *Public Services*—An impact would be considered significant if the proposed project inhibited the public services by preventing fire, police, emergency or social services from

responding to calls in a timely way or if the project would impose excessive demands on public services. Significant impacts will be mitigated by grantees using public services in appropriate and responsible ways and by complying with state, local or tribal licensing regulations to reduce dangers of fires or other emergencies.

(q) *Utilities*—Significant impacts would occur where the proposed project would inhibit the use of such services by any other property owner, or if the project created an unreasonable demand on utility companies. Significant impacts will be mitigated by incorporating energy efficient features in building design.

(r) *Cumulative Effects*—Considered on a nationwide scale, activities related to the purchase, construction and major renovation of Head Start and Early Head Start facilities are expected to have a negligible cumulative impact.

In the course of implementing the Proposed Action, there will be some impacts to environmental resources. ACF believes that compliance by grantees with State, local or tribal requirements will prevent significant impacts by requiring mitigation or will lead grantees to select other sites for their projects which do not raise issues of environmental impact. When existing requirements do not fully address the need for mitigation of environmental impacts, ACF will require the grantee to take additional steps.

ACF does not contemplate approving the purchase, construction or major renovation of Head Start or Early head Start facilities located, or to be located, on wet lands or floodplains, at sites where the project would affect significantly sensitive natural habitats, or at sites where the project would significantly affect historic properties. This policy reflects concern not only with the adverse effects on the environment that selection of such sites would have but also in recognition of the prohibitive costs which would likely be incurred in mitigating significant impacts at those sites.

Dated: January 16, 2001.

Olivia A. Golden,

Assistant Secretary for Children and Families.
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