

national CAN data collection. NICWA proposes a demonstration pilot project to design and test a data collection system with six American Indian tribes and/or Alaska Native corporations and/or villages with effective recordkeeping systems. These entities will report CAN events to NICWANet, an interactive and accessible web-based network developed by NICWA (through a Technology Opportunities Program grant). NICWA will work with the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) contractor support team to assure that the data collected by NICWANet is compatible and could be submitted to NCANDS by the collecting entity.

NICWA also proposes to involve other stakeholders, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS), throughout the project to promote maximum utilization of the data. The goal of the pilot demonstration is to develop a model of a national tribal CAN reporting system. Participating tribes will receive stipends, hardware, software and technical assistance to develop competence and capacity for sustaining the data collection activity.

The NACC project will develop a pilot a certification program for attorneys who represent public child welfare clients or represent children in family or dependency courts. The NACC and the University of Michigan Law School proposed creating a national certification program for child welfare (CW) lawyers. Children in the CW system need competent representation for legal process to function smoothly and ensure their safety and permanence. Data show that children often are not well served in court, due in part to the lack of knowledgeable and well-trained attorneys with expertise in representing the child, the parent and the child welfare agency; and anecdotally, belief in the need for improved legal practice for children is widespread. To correct this problem, NACC proposed a system that measures competence and then certifies competent representatives to the courts and other potential employers. Child welfare law has become increasingly complex and specialized, as Federal legislation, such as the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 and State laws have made child protection and foster care cases even more legally complicated. Lawyers, to be good advocates for children and effective in the courtroom, must understand the social and psychological implications of a case and what those mean developmentally for the child.

The American Bar Association (ABA) and the State Justice Institute (SJI) have

recommended certification as a means of improving the quality of legal services for children. Certification will establish standards of professional competence (be competency based), provide a measure of effectiveness of lawyer training programs and improve the quality and efficiency of CW court cases through a process that is non-governmental, professionally driven and supported, and creates incentives for excellence. NACC has prepared its application to the ABA Standing Committee on Specialization to approve the certification program, as the ABA has approved certification programs in other specialties such as Bankruptcy, Trial Practice, Estate Planning, and Elder Law. This specialty would be "Juvenile Law—Child Welfare."

NACC proposes to identify and define lawyer competencies (*i.e.*, knowledge and skills), present the competencies in a manual, guide the development of training programs, and pilot a certifying examination. Evaluation and revision will be an integral part of the iterative process. NACC has submitted documentation of support for the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, the ABA Center on Children and the Law, the SBA Standing Committee on Specialization, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. Colorado, Michigan and New Mexico have offered to serve as pilot certification states. The program has every likelihood of being self-sustaining following development.

The project periods for both awards will be for 36 months, beginning September 30, 2002 and ending September 29, 2005. Each grantee will be awarded \$200,000 for use during the first twelve months of the project period. The grantees may in the second and third years of the project periods be awarded additional noncompetitive continuation funding of up to \$200,000 per year, each year, depending on the availability of funds, satisfactory performance by the grantee, and a determination that such continued funding would be in the best interest of the government.

Authority: These awards will be made pursuant to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, 42 U.S.C. 5106 (CFDA 93.670) and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program: Section 430 of title IV-B, Subpart 2, of the Social Security Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 629 (CFDA 93.556).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sally Flanzer, Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, 330 C Street, SW., Room 2429, Washington, DC 20447; Telephone: (202) 205-8914.

Dated: September 23, 2002.

Joan E. Ohl,

Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

[FR Doc. 02-24657 Filed 9-26-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Notice of Award of Non-Competitive Grant

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

ACTION: Notice, opportunity to comment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that ACYF is considering awarding discretionary research grant funds without competition to the University of Washington, Evans School of Public Affairs, Human Services Policy Center, for up to \$216,227 of Child Care and Development Block Grants funds in FY 2002. The project period would begin on September 30, 2002, and end on September 29, 2003. This award will be made to the University of Washington to provide Federal support for a research project that will generate State-level estimates of the child care workforce.

The proposed research project addresses many questions of relevance to the child care field, to ACF, and to the Child Care Bureau. The project will provide the methodology and tools to measure the distribution and characteristics of the child care workforce, thereby contributing crucial information to public policy discussions and ultimately to improvement of services, leading to better outcomes for children and families. Child care workforce estimates are critical for determining the need for additional workers based on current demands as well as States' projections in terms of economic development, welfare reform, the education and training of child care providers, and alternative approaches to child care finance. The project is highly relevant to efforts by ACF, the Child Care Bureau and States to improve the quality of early learning opportunities in child care environments.

The project builds on a new workforce estimation model developed by the University of Washington's Human Services Policy Center in collaboration with the Center for the Child Care Work Force. This important and innovative work has generated extensive interest in the child care

policy research filed. In this new study, the investigators will apply and validate their model of the child care workforce by applying the methodology to selected States. Once the efficacy of the model has been validated, it can be used to produce workforce estimates for each of the 50 States and potentially, for sub-state regions.

The methodology will also provide an inexpensive way for States to continually update estimates of their child care workforce. State-estimates are important for several reasons. Major decisions concerning child care financing and quality-improvement are made by States; knowing the size of the current workforce will assist States in planning such initiatives. State-level workforce estimates can also be useful in validating national demand-based workforce, inconsistencies in type and availability of data preclude aggregating their estimates into national profiles. More uniformity and validity of State data will allow for aggregation across States to provide a better national picture of the U.S. child care workforce than is currently available. Such estimates are needed to describe national trends, identify emerging needs, and guide future policy formulations.

Communities, using the tools developed through this project, will also be able to measure their own child care workforce characteristics, articulate the needs of their communities, and identify alternative policy and programmatic responses. Groups of communities with similar characteristics (such as rural areas or inner cities) will be able to ascertain workforce characteristics and needs that may be unique to these types of settings.

The University of Washington is in a unique position to carry out this work with highly qualified personnel, university facilities and in-kind resources. The Human Services Policy Center in the Evans School of Public Affairs is the original developer of this model and has completed the groundwork and planning for this next phase of validation and dissemination of the model to States and communities for their own use. The school has good capability for carrying out the work to a high degree of quality, for analyzing national and state-level trends, and for disseminating the model to the field.

The study has a strong research design and methodology, builds on a solid understanding of the current state of research in the child care field, and is lead by an exceptionally experienced team of investigators. The data collected through this study will provide information urgently needed by

policymakers as we enter the next phase of early education and welfare reform.

The study answers a call for needed research on economic models of child care expressed by researchers and policymakers in the most recent meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium held in Washington, DC, on April 17–19, 2002, and the Annual Meeting of State Child Care Administrators held in Washington, DC on July 31–August 2, 2002.

The Agency is providing members of the public, including qualified organizations that would be interested in competing for the funding, if a competition were held, and opportunity to comment on the planned action.

Statutory Authority: This award will be made pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 as amended (CCDBG Act); section 418 of the Social Security Act; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (Pub. L. 106–554). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is 93.647.

DATES: In order to be considered, comments on this planned action must be received on or before October 7, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties, including qualified organizations that would be interested in competing for the funding, if a competition were held, should write to: Karen Tvedt, Child Care Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services, 330 C Street SW., Room 2046, Washington, DC 20447; e-mail address: ktvedt@act.hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Tvedt, Child Care Bureau, at (202) 401–5130.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 93.647, Child Care Research Discretionary Grants.

Dated: September 23, 2002.

Joan E. Ohl,

Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

[FR Doc. 02–24659 Filed 9–26–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

Biological Response Modifiers Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

This notice announces a forthcoming meeting of a public advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). At least one portion of the meeting will be closed to the public.

Name of Committee: Biological Response Modifiers Advisory Committee.

General Function of the Committee: To provide advice and recommendations to the agency on FDA's regulatory issues.

Date and Time: The meeting will be held by teleconference on October 10, 2002, 5:30 p.m. to approximately 7:30 p.m.

Location: National Institutes of Health, Bldg. 29B, conference room C, 29 Lincoln Dr., Bethesda, MD. This meeting will be held by a telephone conference call. Members of the public attending the meeting may participate during the open session of the meeting.

Contact Person: Gail Dapolito or Rosanna L. Harvey, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (HFM–71), Food and Drug Administration, 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, 301–827–0314, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1–800–741–8138 (301–443–0572 in the Washington, DC area), code 12389. Please call the Information Line for up-to-date information on this meeting.

Agenda: On October 10, 2002, the committee will receive an update on individual research programs in the Division of Cell and Gene Therapies and the Division of Therapeutic Proteins.

Procedure: On October 10, 2002, from 5:30 p.m. to approximately 7 p.m., the meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Written submissions may be made to the contact person by October 3, 2002. Oral presentations from the public will be scheduled between approximately 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Time allotted for each presentation may be limited. Those desiring to make formal oral presentations should notify the contact person before October 3, 2002, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

Closed Committee Deliberations: On October 10, 2002, from approximately 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the meeting will be closed to permit discussion where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6)). The committee will discuss reports of a review of individual research programs