



Dear Reader:

I am pleased to present the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) FY 2005 Annual Performance Plan and the FY 2003 Annual Performance Report as required by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA). Here you will learn where ACF stands in meeting a broad range of challenging goals that are directed toward improving child and family well-being by fostering independence and strengthening families. ACF's programs are carried out through partnership with the state, Territorial, local, and Tribal governments, and with private, non-profit, faith- and community-based grantees.

The performance plan and report feature a comprehensive set of measures and outcomes in fifteen major areas providing results-oriented information that enables ACF to share with stakeholders its progress toward achieving four ACF strategic goals:

- Increase economic independence and productivity for families,
- Improve healthy development, safety, and well-being of children and youth,
- Increase the health and prosperity of communities and Tribes, and
- Manage resources to improve performance

ACF's implementation of performance management has created a consistent framework for linking agency-wide goals with program priorities and targeting resources to meet the needs of children and families. It has provided a shared vision of what needs to be accomplished with our partners. It provides a consistent and effective way to measure our achievements and to strive for continued improvement.

ACF has made a concerted effort to increase outcomes in each of our program areas. As a result, 45 of the total 60 measures (74 percent) are outcomes compared to the initial FY 2004 submission in which 41 of the 68 measures were outcomes (60 percent). This represents a 33 percent increase in proportion of outcome measures to total measures. Additionally, ACF has developed efficiency measures for each of the program areas and is proposing that these be further refined over the next several months.

I hope you find this plan informative and useful.

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Assistant Secretary
for Children and Families