

Region VI

Developmental Disabilities Newsletter



JUNE 2004
VOLUME 7; ISSUE 3



HHS AWARDS ADDITIONAL \$ 9 MILLION TO HELP STATES DEVELOP AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTERS

HHS Secretary announced 12 grants totaling nearly \$9 million to support state efforts to create "one stop" centers to help consumers learn about and access long-term supports ranging from in-home services to nursing facility care.

The new grants represent the second round of funding of Aging and Disability Resource Center Programs. A total of 24 states have now received HHS grants to develop streamlined access to long-term support services under this program.

The grants announced are being awarded to state or territorial agencies in Alaska, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, New Mexico, North Carolina, Northern Mariana Islands and Wisconsin. In September 2003, HHS awarded similar grants to Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and West Virginia.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center Grant Program is part of the President's New Freedom Initiative, which works to overcome barriers to community living for people with disabilities of all ages. The program is a joint effort involving HHS' Administration on Aging (AoA) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and provides states with an opportunity to effectively integrate their long-term support resources for consumers into a single coordinated system.

The centers will offer assistance to families often desperate to find appropriate and affordable support for a loved one. The grants will assist states in their efforts to streamline access to multiple public and private programs and ensure that families can find the assistance they need through a single point of entry into the long-term support system. More information on the Aging and Disability Resource Centers Grant program, including descriptions of grantee projects, is available at <http://www.aoa.gov> and at www.cms.hhs.gov/newfreedom.



*Taken from: AoA Press Office
April 2004*

The National Council on Disability (NCD) Conducts a Native American Forum

April 15, NCD conducted a public forum, Disability Matters in Tribal Communities, as part of its quarterly meeting. The forum attracted more than 120 participants from various states, local public and private organizations, and tribes to a dialogue opportunity at the Santa Ana Pueblo near Bernalillo, N.M. Participants used NCD's report, People with Disabilities on Tribal Lands, as a springboard for sharing examples of what seems to be working in Indian Country. Other comments, questions, and workgroup discussions touched briefly on personal stories and a broad array of government sovereignty and trust issues that affect relationships and, in turn, the provision of culturally sensitive services.

The Chairperson recounted in his welcoming comments NCD's national mindfulness of many diverse cultures noting that "despite this reality, sometimes people in the United States forget about the Indian Nations." During the forum, people with disabilities and their families provided perspectives for refocusing attention on outreach and more inclusive practices, incorporating underserved groups in the broader disability and public policy arena.

*Taken from: ACF Media Clips
May 6, 2004*

OPEN DOOR INITIATIVE

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has launched The Open Door Initiative, which is an initiative designed to seek input from beneficiaries, providers, and other stakeholders interested in delivery of quality healthcare for seniors and beneficiaries with disabilities. This increased emphasis on responsiveness by CMS is captured through an ongoing series of "Open Door Forums" that provide a dialogue about both the many individual service areas and beneficiary needs within CMS.

There are currently fourteen individual ongoing forums held on a monthly basis or bimonthly basis. Each forum is chaired by a senior-level agency official and co-chaired by a CMS Regional Administrator.

Open Door Forums include Disability; Rural Health; Diversity; Ambulance, Home Health, Hospice, and Durable Medical Equipment; Hospitals; and New Freedom Initiative.

For additional information and to see the Open Door Forum schedule, consult CMS' website at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor>.

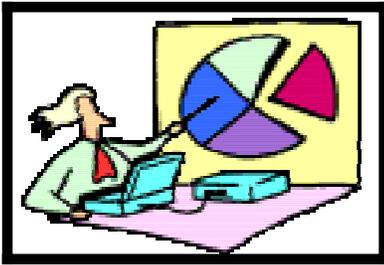


HHS Releases Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released 2002 statistics from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System.

An estimated 896,000 children across the country were victims of abuse or neglect in 2002, according to HHS. The statistics indicate about 12.3 out of every 1,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect, a rate slightly below the previous year's victimization rate of 12.4 out of 1,000 children. The data show that child protective service agencies received about 2,600,000 reports of possible maltreatment in 2002. There were 896,000 substantiated cases of maltreatment of children-the majority of which involved neglect. About 1,400 children died of abuse or neglect, a rate of 1.98 per 100,000 children in the population.

The rate of child neglect and abuse in 2002 was about 20 percent less than the rate in 1993, when maltreatment peaked at an estimated 15.3 out of every 1,000 children. As recently as 1998, the rate was 12.9 per 1,000 children. During the past three reporting years, the maltreatment rate has been fairly constant. Rates for 2000, 2001, and 2002 were 12.2, 12.4, and 12.3, respectively.



*Taken from: ACF Media Clips
May 6, 2004*

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Announces New Grants

The Family Youth Services Bureau within ACF is accepting applications for grants that address the needs of runaway and homeless youth. The purpose of these grants is to establish or strengthen locally-controlled, community-based and faith-based programs that address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. County governments, city or township governments, special district governments, State controlled institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, Native American tribal organizations, non-profits having 501(c)(3) status, nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) with the Internal Revenue Services other than institutions of higher education and faith-based organizations are eligible to apply. Application instructions may be found at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2004-ACF-ACYF-CY-0011.html>.

Child Support Demonstrations

On April 29, 2004, the Administration for Children and Families announced \$3.7 million in funding to support demonstrations in Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Minnesota to promote improvements in child support enforcement efforts. With the addition of the four states, it brings the number of projects to seven that will develop and test new strategies in communities across the nation to support healthy marriage and parental relationships with the goals of improving the well-being of children, promoting paternity establishments, and increasing financial and emotional support to children.

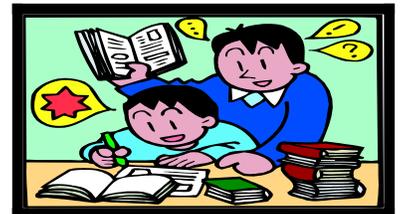
The states will receive Federal funding in the following amounts: Illinois will receive \$819,009; Louisiana will receive \$924,000; Massachusetts will receive \$973,180; and Minnesota will receive \$989,999.

The goals of the demonstration projects include improving the establishment of paternity and increasing financial support for children as well as improving fathers' relationships with both their children and the mothers of their children. The projects also will include efforts to improve couple relationships and reduce the potential for domestic violence. The projects are required to screen participants for domestic violence and refer appropriate individuals for services.

National Leadership Conference for Youth with Disabilities

The National Leadership Conference for Youth with Disabilities will be held in Washington, D.C. (July 24-27, 2004). The theme for the conference is Learning, Living, Leading: Youth with Disabilities Continuing the Legacy. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from national disability leaders, public officials, and other young leaders with disabilities from all over the country.

The conference announcement can be downloaded from the National Youth Leadership Network website at: www.nyln.org.



WHERE IS IT FOUND IN THE DD ACT?

...establish a grievance procedure for clients or prospective clients of the system to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities have full access to services of the system.

ADA Information Translated in Spanish

The US Department of Justice has expanded information on their web-site in Spanish. Below are addresses:

1. ADA Questions and Answers La Ley para Personas con Discapacidades -Preguntas y Respuestas http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adaqa03_esp.htm
2. Commonly Asked Questions About Child Care Centers and the Americans with Disabilities Act Preguntas Comunes de la Ley para Personas con Discapacidades y Centros de Cuidar de Ninos http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/childcare_qa_esp.htm
3. Access for 9-1-1 and Telephone Emergency Services Acceso a los Servicios de Emergencia Telefonica y de 9-1-1 http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/911ta_esp.htm
4. A Guide for People with Disabilities Seeking Employment ADA Guía para Personas con Discapacidades que Procuran Empleo http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/911ta_esp.htm
5. ADA Technical Assistance Documents in Spanish ADA Documentos de Asistencia Tecnica en Español http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/publicat_esp.htm

RECRUIT AND RETAIN PERSONAL ASSISTANCE WORKERS

HHS Secretary announced five new demonstration grants aimed at helping recruit, train and retain direct service workers who provide personal assistance to people with disabilities who need help with eating, bathing, dressing and other activities of daily living.

Grants totaling nearly \$5.6 million will be distributed to pay for the demonstrations, three of which will test offering health insurance benefits for workers to determine if that would help keep workers on the job.

The Demonstration projects to Improve the Direct Service Community Workforce will grant \$1.4 million each to the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Home Care Quality Authority, a Washington state agency, and Bridges, Inc., a non-profit service agency in Indiana. Each of these grantees will be offering health insurance to direct service workers during the three-year demonstration. Grants of \$680,000 each will go to the Arkansas Department of Human Services and Seven Counties Services, Inc., a service provider in Kentucky, for developing educational materials, training of service workers, mentorship programs and other activities.

More information about this program and the President's New Freedom Initiative is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/newfreedom>.

National Initiative on Physical Fitness for Children and Youth with Disabilities

It is estimated that in 2004, almost 6 million American children and youth aged 0-21 years have disabilities that require special services. Healthy People 2010 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that notable disparities in health and healthcare exist in these children with disabilities. The children are at greater risk than their peers without disabilities to develop poor health, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, and muscular-skeletal limitations because they are not appropriately physically active and fit.

To address this problem and assist the population of 6 million children and youth, The Office on Disability of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (OD/HHS), and the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports are sponsoring a National Initiative to enhance physical activity, good nutrition, fitness, and healthy lifestyles in children and youth with disabilities. The Initiative will link physically fit adults with and without disabilities as mentors to motivate children with disabilities to adopt the lifestyle of becoming and remaining physically active and fit throughout their lifetime.

A Roll-Out Celebration announcing the National Initiative will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2004, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

For more information, please contact Dr. Margaret Giannini, Director of OD/HHS or Dr. Michael Marge, Program Manager of the National Initiative by calling 202-401-5844, or visit OD's website at: <http://www.hhs.gov/od>.

New Freedom Initiative: A Progress Report

In March 2004, the President of the United States issued A Progress Report on the New Freedom Initiative. The report can be accessed at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/newfreedom>.

Financial Corner

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Children & Families has a website that provides copies of Financial Forms and Reports. The Office of Financial Services site contains copies of Grant Application Forms, Certifications, Disclosures, Assurances, and Reporting Forms.

The website can be located at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs>.



Save The Date

Make your calendars for the National Leadership Summit on Improving Results for Youth II: Policy and Practice Implications for Secondary and Postsecondary Education, Transition, and Workforce Development for Youth with Disabilities.

The Summit will be held June 14 & 15, 2005 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. At this Summit, the state leadership teams will work together to assess progress made on addressing their state priorities identified at the first National Leadership Summit and use this information in continuous improvement planning for secondary education and transition policies, systems, and programs for youth with disabilities. For more information, visit the website at: www.ncset.org/summit05/index.htm.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

The Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, an independent body within the Executive branch, are to meet June 4, 2004 in Washington, D.C. to carry out its advisory functions under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002. The Council's primary functions are to coordinate federal programs related to delinquency prevention and missing and exploited children and federal programs and activities that detain or care for unaccompanied juveniles. Its ex officio members are the Attorney General (Chair); the Secretaries of Labor, Education, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services; the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention serves as the Council's Vice Chair.

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For more information you may e-mail Timothy Wight, Designated Federal Official for the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, OJJDP, at WightT@ojp.usdoj.gov.

2004 Red Book

The Social Security 2004 Red Book is available at: www.ssa.gov/work/ResourcesToolkit/redbook.html. The book is a summary guide to employment support for individuals with disabilities under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Programs.



Domestic Violence Programs & Women with Disabilities

Violence against women with disabilities and the potential lack of services for such victims are of particular concern when one considers the proportion of women in the U.S. who have a disability. Although estimates of the prevalence of disability among women differ, it is clear that many women have some type of disability. For example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that 24% of the non-institutionalized civilian women in the U.S. have a disability.

To address these concerns, advocates for domestic violence victims in North Carolina wanted to know the proportion of clients contacting domestic violence programs who have a disability and the types of services these programs offer women with disabilities. Advocates also wanted to know limitations and challenges faced by programs and strategies used to overcome the challenges. Information was collected in 1999 by written surveys and phone interviews. Of the 85 surveys sent to North Carolina domestic violence programs, data was collected from 72 for an 85% response rate.

When asked about their capacity to meet the needs of clients with disabilities, between 94% and 99% of the programs reported being either somewhat able or very able to provide effective outreach, anticipate needs, provide basic services and access to facilities, and collaborate with community disability-related service providers. Of all of the respondents, 16% reported having difficulty communicating with women who have hearing, speech, or learning disabilities.

The above information is based on "Helping Women with Disabilities and Domestic Violence: Strategies, Limitations, and Challenges of Domestic Violence Programs and Services" in the *Journal of Women's Health*, Vol. 12, No. 7, 2003.

*Taken From: FPG Child Development Institute
University of N.C. - Chapel Hill*

2004 KIDS Count

The 15th Annual KIDS COUNT Data Book was released on June 3, 2004 - the data book reports that national trends in child well-being are moving in a positive direction. Nonetheless, there are enormous differences among the states in many critical indicators. Although the child poverty rate declined in nearly every state between 1996 and 2001, the poverty rate in America is among the highest in the developed world.

Additionally, the book highlights the fact that nearly one in six young adults, ages 18 to 24, are not working, have no degree beyond high school, and are not enrolled in school.

You may view the 2004 KIDS COUNT book through the Annie E. Casey Foundation at <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/databook>.



Percentage of Domestic Violence Programs Serving Clients with Particular Type of Disabilities

Type of Disability	%(Respondents = 67)
Mental Retardation/Developmental Disability	73
Physical Disability/Mobility Impairment	69
Hearing Impairment	38
Visual Impairment	24
Other	9

WHERE IS IT FOUND IN THE DD ACT?

ANSWER...Subtitle C-P&A/Section 143. SYSTEM REQUIRED

HHS Medicare Demonstration

HHS identified Missouri, Colorado, and Massachusetts for Medicare Demonstration of new, less restrictive homebound definitions. The three states will conduct a demonstration project involving a new and more liberalized definition of homebound. This definition would allow Medicare beneficiaries receiving home health benefits to leave their home more frequently and for longer periods without risking the loss of those benefits.

This represents another step forward in President Bush's New Freedom Initiative, which is breaking down barriers to community living for people with disabilities and addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. Up to 15,000 beneficiaries will be eligible to enroll in the two-year demonstration, which will begin in the fall. To qualify for the demonstration, Medicare beneficiaries must have a permanent, severe disability that is not expected to improve. In addition, the individual must meet each of the following needs-based criteria:

- ◆ Needs permanent help with three of five activities of daily living (ADLs such as bathing, dressing, eating, toileting and transferring);
- ◆ Needs permanent skilled nursing care, and daily attendant visits to monitor, treat or provide ADL assistance; and
- ◆ Requires assistance to leave home and is not working outside the home.

The goal of the demonstration is to determine the cost impact of the demonstration for patients with chronic illness.

*Taken From: HHS Weekly Report
June 6—12, 2004*

Fiscal Year 2005 Federal Allotments

State	State Council	Protection & Advocacy System
Arkansas	805,462	388,340
Louisiana	1,385,313	651,487
New Mexico	521,855	365,940
Oklahoma	914,772	438,101
Texas	4,775,777	2,235,839

The *Region VI Developmental Disabilities Newsletter* is issued 6 times a year by the Region VI Administration for Children & Families.

Look for the next Newsletter in August 2004

You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.

Mark Twain

A National Conference on Inclusion

There will be a conference on how to create an organizational culture that welcomes children of all levels of ability in programs that take place in out-of-school time. From strategy, to implementation you will acquire the tools you need, all in the best climate in the U.S. (San Diego). The conference will be held September 22-25, 2004. More information at www.kitonline.org.

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address correction requested

highlights..

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