

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

State Grants for Election Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities (EAID)

AGENCY: Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notification of the availability of Fiscal Year 2004 funds under the Help America Vote Act, Public Law (Pub. L.) 107-252, title II subtitle D, part 2, section 261, Payments to States and Units of Local Governments to Assure Access for Individuals with Disabilities (42 U.S.C. 15421).

SUMMARY: This notice (1) sets forth the requirements that must be met by a State seeking a payment under 42 U.S.C. 15421 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA); and (2) secures assurances from such a State related to conditions prior to receiving a payment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 19, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Margaret Schaefer at (202) 690-5962, mschaefer@acf.hhs.gov.

Part I: Introduction

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA), signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 29, 2002, contains several provisions that will enable an applicant to establish, expand, and improve access to and participation by individuals with the full range of disabilities (e.g., visual impairments including blindness, hearing impairments including deafness, the full range of mobility impairments including gross and fine motor impairments, emotional impairments, and intellectual impairments) in the election process. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this announcement is: 93.617.

Background

HAVA assigned responsibility for the EAID to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary), who has assigned responsibility for carrying out this program to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Within ACF, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) is responsible for the administration of the EAID grant program.

Eligible Applicants

As defined by section 901 of HAVA, States (including the District of

Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands) are eligible to apply for grants under the EAID program. Grants are not available to local units of government directly from the Federal government in FY 2004 because the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Pub. L. 108-199, appropriated funds only for grants to States for FY 2004.

Availability and Distribution of Funds

On January 23, 2004, in Pub. L. 108-199, Congress appropriated \$10,000,000 for payments to States for Federal fiscal year 2004, of which \$9,941,000 is available. Payment amounts to States and Territories will be based on the relative size of the voting age population (i.e., number of individuals 18 years of age or older as reported in the 2000 U.S. Census) of those States and Territories requesting payment, with the exception that no State or Territory applying for funds shall receive a payment of less than \$100,000. See Table I for the amount reserved for each State and Territory, assuming all 55 States and Territories submit applications. If fewer than 55 States and Territories submit applications, those States and Territories applying for payment will receive a proportionately higher amount than that listed on Table I. Any payment distributed shall remain available until expended. In order to receive a payment, a State must meet all of the requirements in part II of this notice. State governments receiving funds under this announcement will need to collaborate with local chief election officials and local units of government (including Indian tribes which are involved in conducting elections for Federal offices) in determining where and how to spend funds. The Federal government reserves the right to audit expenditure of funds received under this announcement pursuant to section 902 of the Help America Vote Act, 42 U.S.C. 15542 and 45 CFR 92.26, where applicable.

Use of Allotments

Section 261 of HAVA provides that funds be made available to:

a. Make polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities (e.g., visual impairments including blindness, hearing impairments including deafness, the full range of mobility impairments including gross and fine motor impairments, emotional impairments, and intellectual impairments).

b. Provide the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) to individuals with the full range of disabilities.

c. Provide training for election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with the full range of disabilities in elections for Federal office.

d. Provide individuals with the full range of disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places.

Part II: Application Requirements

All of the following conditions must be met by an applicant seeking a payment under 42 U.S.C. 15421 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. An applicant must agree to these conditions in writing prior to receiving a payment by submitting an application. The conditions are to ensure that a payment will be used in compliance with HAVA. Payments must be used to pay for the activities described under part I, Use of Allotments.

Conditions

1. Except as noted, the grant must be used for each of the following activities:

a. Unless a state submits an assurance that all polling place are accessible, making polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with disabilities.

b. Providing the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) to individuals with disabilities as for other voters.

c. Training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with disabilities in elections for Federal office.

d. Providing individuals with disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places.

2. In an application, an applicant must provide:

a. The name of the State submitting the application.

b. The name of the Chief Election Official of the State submitting the application.

c. Contact person: Name, title, address, phone, fax, and e-mail address.

d. A description of what the applicant intends to do in each of the four categories of activities outlined under 1 above. [Note the exception in #1 above related to assuring that all polling places are accessible.]

e. How much of the payment that the applicant intends to spend on each of

the four categories of activities outlined in 1 above. [Note the exception in #1 above related to assuring that all polling places are accessible.]

f. An assurance that six months after the ending of the fiscal year in which a payment is received, the Chief Election Official or his/her designee will submit a report to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities for the Secretary of Health and Human Services describing how the payment received was used with regard to the four categories of activities. [Note the exception in #1 above related to assuring that all polling places are accessible.]

3. The application must include a completed SF 424, available at this Web address: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add/announce.htm>.

4. The application must include the following certifications:

a. Anti-Lobbying Certification and Disclosure Form (45 CFR part 93).

b. Other Certifications: The signature on the application by the authorized official attests to the intent to comply with the following other certifications:

A. Certification Regarding Drug-Free Work Place (45 CFR part 76)

B. Debarment Certification (45 CFR part 76); and

C. Certification Regarding Environmental Tobacco Smoke.

5. The application must be signed by the Chief Election Official.

6. The closing time and date for receipt of applications is 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time (e.s.t.) 30 days from date of publication in the **Federal Register**. Mailed or hand carried applications received after 4:30 p.m. on the closing date will be classified as late. Any applications received after 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date will not be considered for payment.

Deadline: Mailed applications shall be considered as meeting an announced deadline if they are received on or before the deadline time and date at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Mail Stop HHH 405-D, Washington, DC 20447, Attention: Margaret Schaefer. Hand-delivered applications should be delivered to Margaret Schaefer at this same address.

Part III: Additional Information

Closing Date for Receipt of Assurances

The closing date for receipt of all applications is 30 days from date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Grant Administration Regulations

The regulations that govern the administration of these grants are: 45 CFR part 16—Procedures of the Departmental Grant Appeals Board; 45 CFR part 30—Claims Collection; 45 CFR part 76—Government wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Government wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants); 45 CFR part 80—Nondiscrimination Under Programs Receiving Federal Assistance Through the Department of Health and Human Services Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 45 CFR part 81—Practice and Procedure for Hearings Under Part 80 of This Title; 45 CFR part 84—Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs and Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance; 45 CFR part 91—Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age in HHS Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance; 45 CFR part 92—Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments; and 45 CFR part 93—New Restrictions on Lobbying.

Reporting Requirements

Each grantee is required to submit annually a narrative report that describes how the funds are used in regard to the four categories of activities authorized under 42 U.S.C. 15461 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. [Note the exception for the first category related to assuring that all polling places are accessible.] These reports are due no later than March 31 of each year.

Reports must be mailed to: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Mail Stop HHH 405-D, Washington, DC 20447, Attention: Margaret Schaefer.

Expenditures under the EAID program are to be reported using a Financial Status Report (SF-269A). Grantees are required to submit annual financial reports (SF-269A) at the end of each 12 month grant period (October 1—September 30) until all funds have been expended. Funds under EAID are available until expended. Final reports are due 90 days after the end of the grant period.

Submit the original SF-269A to ACF at the address below: Administration for Children and Families, Office of Administration, Division of Mandatory Grants, Attn: Joseph Lonergan, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC 20447.

Notification Under Executive Order 12372

This program is covered under E.O. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs" and 45 CFR part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities." However, since units of local governments are not funded in Fiscal Year 2003, the review and comment provisions of the Executive Order and part 100 do not apply for fiscal year 2004.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-511), the application requirements contained in this notice have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0348-0043.

TABLE I.—FY 2004 ALLOCATIONS FOR ELECTION ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES—FY 2004 STATE ALLOTMENTS

[Voting access for individuals with disabilities—States]

State/Territory	FY 2004 enacted
Alabama	129,831
Alaska	100,000
Arizona	152,889
Arkansas	100,000
California	985,955
Colorado	128,910
Connecticut	100,000
Delaware	100,000
District of Columbia	100,000
Florida	492,941
Georgia	241,722
Hawaii	100,000
Idaho	100,000
Illinois	359,062
Indiana	175,350
Iowa	100,000
Kansas	100,000
Kentucky	121,452
Louisiana	126,664
Maine	100,000
Maryland	156,678
Massachusetts	190,726
Michigan	287,376
Minnesota	144,745
Mississippi	100,000
Missouri	164,243
Montana	100,000
Nebraska	100,000
Nevada	100,000
New Hampshire	100,000
New Jersey	248,294
New Mexico	100,000
New York	558,767
North Carolina	240,165
North Dakota	100,000
Ohio	328,144
Oklahoma	100,662
Oregon	102,439
Pennsylvania	363,885

TABLE I.—FY 2004 ALLOCATIONS FOR ELECTION ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES—FY 2004 STATE ALLOTMENTS—Continued

[Voting access for individuals with disabilities—States]

State/Territory	FY 2004 enacted
Rhode Island	100,000
South Carolina	120,173
South Dakota	100,000
Tennessee	168,757
Texas	602,306
Utah	100,000
Vermont	100,000
Virginia	211,844
Washington	175,020
West Virginia	100,000
Wisconsin	157,636
Wyoming	100,000
Subtotal	9,536,636
American Samoa	100,000
Guam	100,000
Puerto Rico	104,364
Virgin Islands	100,000
Subtotal	404,364
Total resources	9,941,000

Patricia A. Morrissey,

Commissioner, Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

[FR Doc. 04-8789 Filed 4-16-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Grants and Cooperative Agreements; Notice of Availability

Federal Agency Contact Name: Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau.

Funding Opportunity Title: Training of Child Welfare Agency Supervisors in the Effective Delivery and Management of Federal Independent Living Services.

Announcement Type: Competitive Grant—Initial.

Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2004-ACF-ACYF-CT-0009.

CFDA Number: 93.674.

Due Date for Applications: The due date for receipt of applications is June 18, 2004.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The Children's Bureau announces the availability of funds and requests applications to develop and implement a training curriculum for public child welfare agency supervisors.

This curriculum will strengthen supervision of staffs' interventions with older youth who are in foster care and/or in independent living programs. These youth, mostly age 16 to 21, need assistance in making a successful transition to adulthood, as well as help in avoiding long-term dependency on the social welfare system.

These youth often face decisions with regard to personal housing, transportation, employment and education. They need workers who can guide and understand these challenges. The target youth also need workers who have a grounding in the four core principles that have been identified as critical for adolescent transition programs to be successful. The principles are:

- (1) Positive youth development;
- (2) Collaboration;
- (3) Cultural competence; and
- (4) Permanent connections.

For more information on these principles contact the University of Oklahoma, National Resource Center for Youth Services at <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu>.

Child welfare supervisors must ensure that child welfare workers understand and utilize:

- (1) Positive youth development philosophy;
- (2) Client assessment;
- (3) Age-appropriate intervention planning; and
- (4) Implementation and evaluation of individualized Independent Living Program (ILP) training and program activities.

Training based on the curriculum should increase child welfare supervisor's ability to supervise a worker in:

- (1) Assessing a youth's readiness for ILP services, support and training;
- (2) Identifying culturally competent ILP program services and activities;
- (3) Utilizing positive youth development principles for involving youth in decision-making, implementation and evaluation of training and program activities;
- (4) Identifying areas of stress and its impact on youth in foster care;
- (5) Working with youth to help them deal with crisis situations and to assess the results of the intervention;
- (6) Working with youth to develop and maintain permanent connections; and
- (7) Collaborating with both inter- and intra-agency resource people to achieve positive outcomes for youth transitioning to adulthood.

Background

In December 1999, Congress passed new independent living legislation, the

John H. Chaffee Foster Care Independence Program. The new program provides States with increased funding and flexibility to help youth make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency. Currently all 50 States, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia have an ILP. Services and activities include educational and employment assistance, training in basic living skills (budgeting, housekeeping, food shopping, building and maintaining positive social relationships), counseling, housing, case management and outreach services. The new legislation allows the use of these funds for additional activities including room and board, age-appropriate services to youth younger than 16, post-secondary educational assistance and preventive health activities.

In addition, the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) has had considerable impact on child welfare practice and how the goals of safety, permanency and well-being of youth must be accomplished. Thus, there is a need to refocus attention on practice approaches that give attention, as appropriate, to reunification with the biological parents, adoption, placement or other alternative approaches to permanency for youth of all ages. For many older foster care youth, permanency means learning to live independently. Even if they can spend time with family members, their chances for a successful transition to adulthood are greatly improved if they learn to count on themselves to address their daily challenges, and if they have the knowledge, skills and experience to do so.

Older youth in foster care need special help and support. As of September 30, 2002 there were an estimated 533,897 children in substitute/foster care. Of these children an estimated 39% were identified as being 13 years of age or older (AFCARS—Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System—data as of October 2003). Approximately 20,000 youth age out of the system every year. These young people often have histories of significant abuse, neglect and multiple foster care placements. They often find themselves completely on their own after discharge, with few, if any, financial resources; limited education, training and employment options; no safe place to live; and little or no support from family, friends and community. A focus on the four core principles for these youth is crucial. The permanent connections work to help ground the youth in the community and provide a support system that these traumatized youth often lack.