



ACF AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTHY MARRIAGE INITIATIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES



The following are potential technical assistance resources that may be available to groups that are interested in beginning or strengthening an existing African American Healthy Marriage Initiative (AAHMI).

- One of the first things for interested groups to do is to log on to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/> The website is a primary gateway for accessing information on available technical assistance (and funding) resources. You may obtain additional information and/or request technical assistance from the ACF by going to the yellow "Questions?" section of the website and clicking on the Healthy Marriage Initiative question. From that point you may make an online request for technical assistance and/or navigate through the site to find a variety of informational resources.
- The ACF Regional Offices are also available to provide information and technical assistance on the AAHMI. The Regional Offices' websites can be reached through the ACF website (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>) A listing of the Regional Offices, and the States they cover, is on the reverse side of this document. The Regional Offices have several technical assistance documents available for distribution on subjects such as: building a community healthy marriage coalition, a compendium of approaches to strengthening healthy marriages, potential funding sources for healthy marriage initiatives, and a matrix describing various marriage education programs.
- President Bush's Faith-based and Community Initiative (FBCI) is another potential source of information and technical assistance. Information on the FBCI and the Compassion Capital Fund (CCF), which is administered by ACF, can be found online at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccf/index.html> The CCF supports 21 Intermediary Organizations and a national resource center which are available to provide information, training and technical assistance to faith-based and community-based organizations. You can also join the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services FBCI Listserv through the following web address: http://list.nih.gov/archives/faith_based_initiative.html
- The Building Strong Families project (supported through an ACF contract) is evaluating programs that are designed to improve child well-being by helping unwed parents interested in marriage to enter and sustain healthy marriages, and by helping couples not interested in marriage to maintain positive relationships that benefit their children. The programs aim to improve couples' relationship skills and offer services dealing with child and family issues. For information about the project and technical assistance available to programs that might participate, go to <http://www.buildingstrongfamilies.info/>
- The Extension Specialists in local Extension service offices (affiliated with State Land Grant Universities) are a potential source of technical assistance. Contact the local Extension staff working in the area of Nutrition, Family, and Consumer Sciences.
- Two good resources on the World Wide Web are the SmartMarriages website (covering the entire scope of marriage issues and resources) and the Wedded Bliss website (featuring information on marriage in the African American community). The websites are: <http://www.smartmarriages.com/> and <http://www.weddedblissinc.com/>
- Information on grants, grant writing, and related subjects is available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services online at <http://www.hhs.gov/grantsnet/roadmap/>
- Consider contacting Historically Black Colleges and Universities to see if assistance may be available to measure the impact of activities, evaluate your overall AAHMI, administer programs, and deliver messages on campus that support your initiative.
- The Corporation for National and Community Services' Americorps*VISTA program may be able to provide volunteers to assist in implementing your initiative. Reach Americorps*VISTA online at <http://www.americorps.org/vista/index.html>
- The ACF has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated (APA) with the goal of establishing a collaborative relationship to encourage, promote, and strengthen the role of fathers in families and in the lives of their children. The MOU also includes other APA activities to support ACF efforts to strengthen families and promote ACF priorities such as the Healthy Marriage Initiative and the AAHMI. Consider contacting your local APA chapter to see if it may be able to become a partner in your AAHMI effort. You may contact your ACF Regional Office to obtain information on APA chapters active in your local area.