

# ACF

Administration  
for Children  
and Families

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Administration for Children, Youth and Families**

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**3. Originating Office:** Children's Bureau

**4. Key Words:** The Abandoned Infants Assistance Act

## INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Public and Non-Profit Private Agencies and Interested Individuals

**SUBJECT:** The Abandoned Infants Assistance Act

**LEGAL AND RELATED REFERENCES:** The Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988, Public Law 100-505, 42 USC, 670 note.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Information Memorandum is to provide information on the new discretionary grant program recently funded by Congress and to encourage eligible applicants to consider submitting grant applications when the Federal Register Notice is published later in the Spring or early Summer.

**SUMMARY:** Public Law 100-505, the "Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988," (the Act) was signed into law on October 18, 1988. The Act authorizes the Department to make grants to develop, implement, and operate projects to demonstrate methods of serving abandoned infants and young children, particularly drug-exposed infants and those with AIDS. Public and non-profit private agencies are eligible to apply for these grants. The purposes of the Act are to prevent the abandonment of infants and young children; to identify and address the needs of those who are, or might be, abandoned; to develop appropriate service responses for such children and their families; to recruit and train health and social services personnel, foster care families, and residential care providers to serve such children; and to develop technical assistance and training programs to support the planning, development and operation of projects and programs. Funds to carry out the purposes of this Act were appropriated for the first time in FY 1990. The Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Office of Human Development Services, will administer this program. The Federal Register announcement soliciting applications will not impose additional requirements beyond those in the statute and the Department's grants administration requirements. Prospective applicants should note the requirement in Section 101(b) of the Act that, if the grantee serves abandoned infants in foster homes or other nonmedical residential settings away from their parents, the grantee must meet the case plan and case review requirements specified. The Federal Register announcement will emphasize a comprehensive approach to the design and provision of services

for such children. Finally, the Children's Bureau expects to provide technical assistance to assist grantees to implement, and operate their demonstration projects.

**FUNDS AVAILABLE:** Approximately 50 grants will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$25,000 to \$300,000.

**DATES:** The Federal Register announcement will be published later in the Spring or early Summer of 1990. Grant applications will be due in July. Grants will be awarded by September 30, 1990.

**INQUIRIES TO:**

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[ATTACHMENT](#): ABANDONED INFANTS ASSISTANT ACT OF 1988 (P.L. 100-505)

## **ATTACHMENT: ABANDONED INFANTS ASSISTANT ACT OF 1988 (P.L. 100-505)**

**Legislative Authority:** Abandoned Infants Assistance Act

**U.S. Code Citation:** 42 USC 670 note

**HDS Regulations:** None

**Legislative History:** This Act was established by the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act Of 1988, P.L. 100-505 (10-18-88).

**Note:** This compilation was prepared by OPPL and cleared by the Office of the General Counsel on 12/15/88.

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### **ABANDONED INFANTS ASSISTANCE ACT (10-18-88)**

#### **Section 1. Short Title.**

This Act may be cited as the "Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988."

Sec. 2. Findings. The Congress finds that -

1. throughout the Nation, the number of infants and young children who have been exposed to drugs taken by their mothers during pregnancy has increased dramatically;
2. the inability of parents who abuse drugs to provide adequate care for such infants and young children and a lack of suitable shelter homes for such infants and young children have led to the abandonment of such infants and young children in hospitals for extended periods;
3. the vast majority of these infants and young children will be medically cleared for discharge, yet remain in hospitals as boarder babies;
4. hospital-based child care for these infants and young children is extremely costly and deprives them of an adequate nurturing environment;

5. training is inadequate for foster care personnel working with medically fragile infants and young children and infants and young children exposed to drugs;
6. a particularly devastating development is the increase in the number of cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome in infants and young children, and the number of such cases has doubled within the last 13 months;
7. more than 80 percent of infants and young children with acquired immune deficiency syndrome have at least one parent who is an intravenous drug abuser;
8. infants and young children with acquired immune deficiency syndrome are particularly difficult to place in foster homes, and are being abandoned in hospitals in increasing numbers by mothers dying of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or by parents incapable of providing adequate Care;
9. there is a need for comprehensive services for such infants and young children, including foster family care services, case management services, family support services, respite and crisis intervention services, counseling services, and group residential home services; and Abandoned Infants Assistance Act (10-18-88)
10. there is a need for the development of funding strategies that coordinate and make the optimal use of all private resources, and Federal, State, and local resources, to establish and maintain such services.

## **TITLE I - FOSTER CARE AND RESIDENTIAL CARE OF INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN ABANDONED IN HOSPITALS**

### **Sec. 101. Establishment of Program of Demonstration Projects.**

- a. **In General.** -- The Secretary of Health and Human Services may make grants to public and nonprofit private entities for the purpose of developing, implementing, and operating projects to demonstrate methods --
  1. to prevent the abandonment of infants and young children;
  2. to identify and address the needs of abandoned infants and young children, particularly those with acquired immune deficiency syndrome;
  3. to assist abandoned infants and young children, particularly those with acquired immune deficiency syndrome, to reside with their natural families or in foster care, as appropriate;
  4. to recruit, train, and retain foster families for abandoned infants and young children, particularly those with acquired immune deficiency syndrome;
  5. to carry out residential care programs for abandoned infants and young children, particularly those with acquired immune deficiency syndrome;
  6. to carry out programs of respite care for families and foster families of infants and young children with acquired immune deficiency syndrome; and
  7. to recruit and train health and social services personnel to work with families, foster care families, and residential care programs for abandoned infants and young children, particularly those with acquired immune deficiency syndrome.
- b. **Case Plan With Respect to Foster Care.** -- The Secretary may not make a grant under subsection (a) unless the applicant or the grant agrees that, if the applicant expends the

grant to carry out any program of providing care to infants and young children in foster homes or in other nonmedical residential settings away from their parents, the applicant will ensure that -- Abandoned Infants Assistance Act (10-18-88)

1. a case plan of the type described in paragraph (1) of section 475 of the Social Security Act is developed for each such infant and young child (to the extent that such infant and young child is not otherwise covered by such a plan); and
  2. the program includes a case review system of the type described in paragraph (5) of such section (covering each such infant and young child who is not otherwise subject to such a system).
- c. **Administration of Grant.** -- The Secretary may not make a grant under subsection (a) unless the applicant for the grant agrees --
1. to use the funds provided under this section only for the purposes specified in the application submitted to, and approved by, the Secretary pursuant to subsection (d);
  2. to establish such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure proper disbursement and accounting of Federal funds paid to the applicant under this section;
  3. to report to the Secretary annually on the utilization, cost, and outcome of activities conducted, and services furnished, under this section; and
  4. that if, during the majority of the 180-day period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act, the applicant has carried out any program with respect to the care of abandoned infants and young children, the applicant will expend the grant only for the purpose of significantly expanding, in accordance with subsection (a), activities under such program above the level provided under such program during the majority of such period.
- d. **Requirement of Application.** -- The Secretary may not make a grant under subsection (a) unless --
1. an application for the grant is submitted to the Secretary;
  2. with respect to carrying out the purpose for which the grant is to be made, the application provides assurances of compliance satisfactory to the Secretary; and
  3. the application otherwise is in such form, is made in such manner, and contains such agreements, assurances, and information as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this section.
- e. **Technical Assistance to Grantees.** -- The Secretary may, without charge to any grantee under subsection (a), provide technical assistance (including training) with respect to the planning, development, and operation of projects described in such subsection. The Secretary may provide such technical assistance directly, through contracts, or through grants. Abandoned Infants Assistance Act (10-18-88)
- f. **Technical Assistance With Respect to Process of Applying for Grant.** -- The Secretary may provide technical assistance (including training) to public and nonprofit private entities with respect to the process of applying to the Secretary for a grant technical assistance directly, through contracts, or through grants.

## **Sec. 102. Evaluations, Studies, and Reports by Secretary.**

- a. **Evaluations of Demonstration Projects.** -- The Secretary shall, directly or through contracts with public and nonprofit private entities, provide for evaluations of projects carried out under section 101 and for the dissemination of information developed as result of such projects.
- b. **Study and Report on Number of Abandoned Infants and Young Children.** --
  - 1. The Secretary shall conduct a study for the purpose of determining --
    - A. an estimate of the number of infants and young children abandoned in hospitals in the United States and the number of such infants who have acquired immune deficiency syndrome; and
    - B. an estimate of the annual costs incurred by the Federal Government and by State and local governments in providing housing and care for such infants and young children.
    - C. The Secretary shall, not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, complete the study required in paragraph (1) and submit to the Congress a report describing the findings made as a result of the study.
- c. **Study and Report on Effective Care Methods.** --
  - 1. The Secretary shall conduct a study for the purpose of determining the most effective methods for responding to the needs of abandoned infants and young children.
  - 2. The Secretary shall, not later than April 1, 1991, complete the study required in paragraph (1) and submit to the Congress a report describing the findings made as a result of the study.

### **Sec. 103. Definition.**

For purposes of this title, the term "abandoned infants and young children" means infants and young children who are medically cleared for discharge from acute care hospital setting, but who remain hospitalized because of a lack of appropriate out-of- hospital placement alternatives.

### **Abandoned Infants Assistance Act (10-18-88) Sec. 104. Authorization of Appropriations.**

For the purpose of making grants under section 101, there are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal Year 1989, \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 1990, and \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 1991.

### **Sec. 105. Termination of Program.**

No grant may be made under section 101 after September 30, 1991 .

## **TITLE II - MEDICAL COSTS OF TREATMENT WITH RESPECT TO ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME**

### **Sec. 201. Study and Report on Assistance.**

- a. **Study.** -- The Secretary shall conduct a study for the purpose of --
  - 1. determining cost-effective methods for providing assistance to individuals for the medical costs of treatment of conditions arising from infection with the etiologic agent for acquired immune deficiency syndrome, including determining

- the feasibility of risk-pool health insurance for individuals at risk of such infection;
  - 2. determining the extent to which Federal payments under title XIX of the Social Security Act are being expended for medical costs described in paragraph (1); and
  - 3. providing an estimate of the extent to which such Federal payments will be expended for such medical costs during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.
- b. **Report.** -- The Secretary shall, not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, complete the study required in subsection (a) and submit to the committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate. a report describing the findings made as a result of the study.

### **TITLE III - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Sec. 301. Definitions.**

For purposes of this Act:

1. the term "acquired immune deficiency syndrome" includes infection with the etiologic agent for such syndrome, any condition indicating that an individual is infected with such etiologic agent, and any condition arising from such etiologic agent.
2. The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.