

## OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE

### HEALTHY MARRIAGE AND RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD Q & A ON 2014 NON-COMPETITIVE CONTINUATION APPLICATION

#### Introduction

On December 8, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 (CRA) (Pub. L. 111-291), which authorized \$150 million for demonstration grants to provide activities and services designed to promote Healthy Marriage (\$75 million) and Responsible Fatherhood (\$75 million). In September 2011, ACF awarded 121 grants to community- and faith-based organizations, colleges and universities, and public and private entities in 47 states. A list of grantees is available at this website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/healthy-marriage-grantees>). These programs were funded for a three-year project period, which will end September 29, 2014.

For Fiscal Year 2014, the Administration for Children and Families is making available to the current grantees non-competitive continuation awards for an additional year. Additionally, continuation awards will be available for the five Responsible Fatherhood Reentry Pilot programs, which support pre- and post-release responsible fatherhood, subsidized employment and supportive services to formerly incarcerated fathers. The Healthy Marriage Resource Center also will continue to serve as a resource to gather, develop, and disseminate information and research related to promoting healthy marriage through a range of activities.

Continuation awards will also be available for the 14 Tribal-TANF Child Welfare Coordination grants, which demonstrate models of effective coordination of Tribal TANF and child welfare services provided to tribal families at risk of child abuse or neglect.

#### Questions and Answers

##### **Why did the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) choose to continue funding the current Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) grantees for a fourth year?**

ACF decided to continue the current grantees for an additional year in order to increase the consistency and stability in programs. The current grantees are making good progress toward achieving program goals and an additional year will enable them to increase service provision, including employment and career advancement. In addition, an additional one-year continuation grant would enhance The Parents and Children Together (PACT) and Fatherhood Re-entry research evaluations of Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) programs currently underway by enabling more refined analysis and findings.

**What is the process for grantees to receive the additional year of funding?**

On April 1, 2014, ACF sent a letter to all current grantees announcing the continuation decision and inviting them to submit a non-competitive continuation application. Any grantee organization interested in carrying out HMRF program activities for an additional year will have until June 11, 2014 to submit the continuation application. While grantee programs must remain within the scope of the original award, the continuation application allows for minor adjustments in program design and implementation (e.g., budget adjustments for staff, changes to curricula, changes in numbers of participants served, etc.—with prior approval).

**Will funding levels change in the fourth year?**

No. All HMRF grantees will be eligible to receive their current annual award, provided that they have made satisfactory progress toward achieving program goals.

**Will programs still be required to participate in the ongoing evaluations?**

Yes. All program requirements still apply to the additional year. Grantees already participating in Parents and Children Together (PACT) and Fatherhood Re-entry evaluations would continue to do so. The additional year for these evaluations will allow for the evaluations to increase the number of participants obtained during steady-state program operations, enhancing the evaluation’s ability to examine program impacts.

**Are there any new terms and conditions associated with the additional year of funding?**

No. ACF does not anticipate adding any new terms and conditions to the additional year.

**Does the Supreme Court’s *Windsor* decision affect HMRF grantees that receive an additional year of funding?**

HHS is continuing to review the legal consequences of the *Windsor* decision.

**May grantees include same-sex married couples or individuals interested in same-sex marriage in their grant programs?**

Grantees may do so, and ACF will make available training and technical assistance to any programs that seeks to serve same-sex couples.

**Will ACF issue new Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Funding Opportunity Announcements in FY 2015?**

Since 2011, all HMRF funding has been authorized by annual congressional appropriation. While ACF did include a request for continued funding in HHS’ budget proposal, the decision to provide additional funds rests with Congress.