



I am pleased to present the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) FY 2006 Congressional Justification. This budget request continues support for the President's and Secretary's priority initiatives and reflects the goals and objectives in the Department's FY 2004-2009 Strategic Plan. In addition, the PART process continues to be a critical tool for evaluating program effectiveness and developing budget and legislative strategies.

This submission is our first integrated performance budget, and as such includes the FY 2006 Annual Performance Plan and FY 2004 Annual Performance Report as required by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) along with a more direct link of the budget discussion with program performance. Performance measurement and reporting at ACF provide a comprehensive set of measures and outcomes in fifteen major areas offering results-oriented information that enables ACF to share with stakeholders its progress toward achieving four strategic goals:

- Increase economic independence and productivity for families;
- Improve healthy development, safety, and well-being of children and youth;
- Increase the health and prosperity of communities and Tribes; and
- Manage resources to improve performance.

ACF's implementation of performance management has created a consistent framework for linking agency-wide goals with program priorities and targeting resources to meet the needs of children and families. It has provided a shared vision of what needs to be accomplished with our partners and provides a consistent and effective way to measure our achievements and to strive for continued improvement.

Our FY 2006 budget request represents our efforts to sustain the important initiatives put forth in recent years within the challenging budgetary constraints of today.

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