



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

I am pleased to present the FY 2011 President's Budget request for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). ACF programs strive to promote the economic and social well-being of children, individuals, families, and communities.

The FY 2011 ACF budget makes significant investments in approaches that have proven to be effective, and, where necessary, seeks to realign the scope of existing spending authorities to better address the human services needs of our Nation. For example, the budget reflects President Obama's serious commitment to our youngest learners and belief that investments in early care and education can pay off as children grow by providing: (1) almost a \$1 billion increase to continue support for the historic expansion in Head Start and Early Head Start under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and (2) a \$1.6 billion increase in the first year and \$9 billion increase over 5 years to support a comprehensive child care reauthorization proposal focused on serving more low-income children in safe, healthy, nurturing child care settings that are highly effective in promoting learning child development, and school readiness.

The budget also seeks to ensure that programs are responsive to the needs of America's families by: (1) proposing the establishment of, and funding for, a Fatherhood, Marriage, and Families Innovation Fund to encourage implementation of proven and promising strategies to help fathers and mother succeed both in the labor force and as parents; (2) sustaining critical child support enforcement program services; (3) providing states with access to needed supplemental funding to meet the increased costs of basic assistance, short-term aid, and employment preparation programs for parents unable to find jobs in this economy and to continue and expand subsidized employment programs that are putting thousands of parents to work; (4) establishing through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program a trigger mechanism that will enable almost immediate financial response to changes in energy prices as well as changes in the number of households in poverty; and (5) providing additional support to refugees making a new life in America but facing difficulties due to high unemployment rates. Taken together, these activities are intended to provide a more effective response to issues facing our Nation's children, families, at-risk youth, and low-income communities.

Finally, the budget responds to the President's call for a government that is accountable and transparent. In this vein, we will employ rigorous program integrity activities to safeguard the investments sought in this budget and we will set tough performance standards and closely monitor their achievement.

Carmen R. Nazario
Assistant Secretary for Children and Families