DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS IN ARRA, OMNIBUS, SENATE, AND HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FY 2010 BUDGET	PAGE
FY 2009 OMNIBUS AND SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT LANGUAGE……..	409
FY 2009 ARRA REPORT LANGUAGE……...	411
FY 2009 OMNIBUS REPORT LANGUAGE……..	412
FY 2009 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT LANGUAGE……..	413
FY 2009 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT LANGUAGE (S. RPT. 110-410)……...	418

This page intentionally left blank.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS IN ARRA, OMNIBUS, SENATE, AND HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTS

FY 2009 Omnibus and Senate Appropriations Committee Report Language

Item
Community Services Block Grant – The ACF Office of Community Services is expected to remedy during fiscal year 2009 a failure (1) to report on progress made in remedying oversight deficiencies identified by the Government Accountability Office and (2) to comply with a fiscal year 2005 Congressional directive to implement a training and technical assistance needs assessment and delivery plan in consultation with CSBG State and local eligible entities.

Item
Community Services Block Grant – The Committee notes that Office of Community Services (OCS) has failed to report on its progress in remedying many of the severe deficiencies in its oversight of the CSBG that were reported by the Government Accountability Office. OCS has also failed to comply with the direction from the fiscal year 2005 appropriation conference report to implement a training and technical assistance needs assessment and delivery plan in consultation with CSBG State and local eligible entities. The Committee expects both failings to be remedied during fiscal year 2009. (S.R. 110-410, p. 158)

Action taken or to be taken
OCS responded to issues cited in the July 2006 GAO report by issuing the CSBG Statement of Action regarding the GAO report on September 11, 2006, the CSBG Training and Technical Assistance Plan on July 26, 2007, and the HHS/ACF Updates on GAO Assessments on October 17, 2007. A report on training and technical assistance was submitted to the Committee on January 9, 2009. The report provides an overview of the strategic plan adopted for providing training and technical assistance; the system established for rating training and technical assistance activities and providers; and a new measure established to demonstrate program efficiency.

Item
National Commission on Children and Disasters – The Commission is expected to build on the evaluations of other entities and avoid unnecessary duplication, by reviewing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of various commissions, Federal, State, and local governments,. and nongovernmental entities as to the needs of children as they relate to preparation for, response to, and recovery from all hazards, including major disasters and emergencies. ACF is requested to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the progress of the Commission within one year of its initial meeting. While Departmental funds will support the operations of the Commission, the Commission is expected to operate independently in order to provide unbiased recommendations to the President and the Congress.

Item
Program Administration – The Committee commends the Department for its plans to establish in 2008 a Federal advisory committee on children and disasters under the authority of section 1114 of the Social Security Act. The Committee understands that this advisory committee will be charged with providing policy analysis and advice to ACF and the Secretary. This advisory committee will assess the needs of children as they relate to preparation for, response to, and recovery from all hazards, including major disasters and emergencies. The Committee understands this advisory committee will build on the evaluations of other entities and avoid unnecessary duplication, by reviewing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of various commissions, Federal, State, and local governments, and

nongovernmental entities on this topic. The recommendation includes $1,500,000 to complete this work. Funds may be used for personnel, travel and any other necessary administrative expenses. The Committee requests that ACF submit a report on the progress of this committee within 1 year of the initial meeting. (S.R. 110-410, p. 160)

Action taken or to be taken

In 2008, ACF has taken the following actions to establish and implement the National Commission on Children and Disasters. On September 3, a Notification of the Establishment of the National Commission on Children and Disasters ("the Commission") was published in the Federal Register. On September 17, the charter establishing the Commission as a Secretarial Advisory Committee at HHS was filed with Congress. The Continuing Resolution provided additional language enabling the Commission to become a fully independent advisory commission under the Federal Advisory Committee Act; as a result, the General Services Administration (GSA) is revising the charter to reflect the Commission's independent nature.

The Commission held three public meetings since its charter was established. The first meeting was held October 14, and included presentations by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Administrator, the Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and the Chairperson of the National Coalition on Children and Disasters. At its second meeting on November 20-21, the Commission explored a number of issues related to children in the aftermath of disasters, including acute medical care and countermeasures, disaster case management, and sheltering. The third meeting of the Commission was held February 27, 2009. Members discussed draft recommendations from the disaster case management, shelter and mass care, and pediatric medical care subcommittees. The next public meeting of the Commission will be held June 26, 2009 in Washington, DC.

Item

Refugee and Entrant Assistance – With regard to the UAC program, ORR is directed to respond to the DHS initial call for placement by identifying the ORR placement facility to DHS within six hours, on average, of receiving the DHS call. In addition, ORR shall continue to work with DHS to expedite the transfer and placement of these special needs children in the most appropriate facility as quickly as possible.

Item

Refugee and Entrant Assistance – The Committee is committed to ensuring that UAC are expeditiously transferred from the point of DHS apprehension to initial placement in ORR facilities where they can receive the care and services they need. The Committee directs ORR to respond to DHS' initial call for placement by identifying the ORR placement facility to DHS within 6 hours, on average, of receiving the DHS call. In addition, the Committee directs ORR to continue to work with DHS to expedite the transfer and placement of those children with special needs to the most appropriate ORR facility as quickly as possible. (S.R. 110-410, p. 148)

Action taken or to be taken

ORR is committed to minimizing the time between DHS notification of apprehension and ORR placement designation. ORR has reduced the average time between notification of apprehension of a UAC and placement, from 6.0 hours in FY 2005 to 4.1 hours in FY 2008.

In certain complex cases involving UAC with specialized needs, placement may take longer. However, ORR has made efforts to increase the availability of beds in facilities that can accommodate children with special needs. For example, ORR maintains short-term foster care homes in both Texas on the U.S.-Mexico border and in Arizona (close to apprehension sites) for very young UAC for whom shelter care is not appropriate.

FY 2009 ARRA Report Language

Item

ARRA Funding for Head Start Grantees – Within the total provided for Children and Families Services Programs, $1,000,000,000 is provided for Head Start as proposed by the House, instead of $500,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The Head Start funds shall be allocated according to the current statutory formula. The conferees expect the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to work with Head Start grantees in order to manage these resources in order to sustain fiscal year 2009 awards through fiscal year 2010.

Action taken or to be taken

The $1 billion appropriated to Head Start in ARRA funding noted above plus the $235 million increase made available to Head Start as part of the FY 2009 appropriations process have been allocated in full accord with the current statutory formula.

The funds will be used to increase enrollment in both Head Start and Early Head Start ($200 million each) and will be distributed in a manner that will assure the increase in enrollment will be sustained through FY 2010. The funds for quality improvement will be made available to grantees for two years with instructions that they need to sustain quality improvements through FY 2010.

Further, the increase in funding for Head Start requested in the FY 2010 budget will allow us to fund the entire COLA provided in FY 2009, thereby ensuring no reduction in children served.

Item

Early Head Start – The conferees expect HHS to manage these resources in order to sustain fiscal year 2009 awards through fiscal year 2010. The conferees intend for regional and American Indian and Alaska Native Early Head Start programs and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs to benefit from the Early Head Start funds, taking into consideration the needs of the communities served by such programs. The conferees remind the Secretary of the authority to temporarily increase or waive the limit on the Federal share of a Head Start or Early Head Start grant under the circumstances described in the authorizing statute and support the Secretary's exercise of that authority where appropriate.

Action taken or to be taken

These specially targeted Early Head Start expansion funds will follow the same approach as described above and will be distributed in a manner that will assure the increase in enrollment will be sustained through FY 2010. These funds will be allocated in a manner that assures a full and fair share will be made available to serve American Indian and Alaska Native children and families as well as Migrant and Seasonal farm worker families.

In a recently issued Program Instruction on COLA and Quality Improvement funds, grantees were notified to inform OHS if they believe they will not be able to provide any or all of the required match for the COLA and/or Quality Improvement increase and include a discussion of their reasons. We recognize that the economic downturn may make it difficult for some grantees to generate the full required non-Federal share and will look favorably on any reasonable request for a waiver. Similar language will be included in both the Head Start and the Early Head Start expansion announcements.

Item

New Non-Profit Capacity-Building Initiative – Within the total provided for Children and Families Services Programs, $50,000,000 is provided under section 1110 of the Social Security Act to establish a new initiative to award capacity-building grants directly to nonprofit organizations, instead of $100,000,000 for the Compassion Capital Fund as proposed by the House. The Senate did not propose

funds for this purpose in this account. The conferees intend that this program will expand the delivery of social services to individuals and communities affected by the economic downturn. The conferees expect that grantees have clear and measurable goals, and must be able to evaluate the success of their program.

Action taken or to be taken
This new initiative, titled Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF), will be comprised of two components: The *SCF Nonprofit Capacity Building Program*, with a focus on building the capacity of non-profit organizations to address the broad economic recovery issues in communities, and, the *SCF State, Local and Tribal Government Capacity Building Program*, with a focus on building the capacity of State, local and Tribal governments to partner with and provide outreach to non-profit, faith-based and community organizations as a means to include these groups in economic recovery efforts. The primary purpose of the SCF initiative is to strengthen nonprofit organizations, with a goal of ensuring that local programs have the capacity to integrate faith-based and community-based organizations into recovery programs. Grantees will have clear and measurable goals, and will be required to assist in the evaluating the impact of their programs.

FY 2009 Omnibus Report Language

Item
Refugee and Entrant Assistance – ORR is requested to provide adequate funding under Transitional and Medical Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minor programs for capacity development so that they have the necessary infrastructure to accommodate increasing numbers of unaccompanied and separated refugee children.

Action taken or to be taken
ORR is committed to on-going capacity development in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program. It is necessary to expand existing placement options in order to accommodate increasing numbers of unaccompanied and separated children, particularly given the potential impact of TVPRA to expand the URM population. We will carefully monitor the flow of children into the URM program to determine if our funding is adequate to maintain this critical program.

Item
Refugee and Entrant Assistance – The Administration on Children and Families (ACF) is requested to continue to adequately fund refugee school impact grants.

Action taken or to be taken
ORR is committed to continued funding of the Refugee School Impact program and has included funding at the $15 million level for continued funding of Refugee School Impact grants to States through FY 2010.

Item
Unaccompanied Alien Children – In conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is directed to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations (Committees) no later than March 1, 2009, recommending which agency is the most appropriate to fund the transportation of unaccompanied alien children (UAC) between DHS and HHS custody. This joint report shall focus on which agency can deliver these services in the most cost effective manner. In addition, starting no later than September 1, 2009, the ORR, in conjunction with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, should provide semi-annual briefings to the Committees on the implementation of the recommendations. For fiscal year 2009, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, provides sufficient resources to DHS to pay for this transportation function.

Action taken or to be taken
The House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees staffs have been notified that the requested report related to which agency should be responsible for UAC transportation between DHS and HHS custody has been delayed. ORR will comply with the request for semi-annual briefings to the Committees on implementation of the recommendations regarding UAC transportation after completion and submission of the report.

Item
Family Support Services – To maximize the sustainability of the outcomes of the leadership training supported by these funds, the Secretary shall distribute these funds as competitive grants to one or more national non-profit organizations with demonstrated capacity at the State and local level to foster and provide direct services to families with children with disabilities.

Action taken or to be taken
ADD will issue a program announcement under the Projects of National Significance Grant Program to provide grants to national non-profit organizations for promoting leadership training by and for families with children with disabilities, as instructed by the Committee.

Item
Community Services Block Grant – With regard to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), ACF is directed to allocate $500,000 of CSBG training and technical assistance funds for a national community economic development training and capacity development initiative. Successful implementation of community development programs requires significant investment in high-quality board and staff training and proven technical assistance. This funding will enable community action agency leaders to attain the professional skills needed to undertake projects to enhance their communities' future security through financing and implementing innovative housing, economic and community development partnerships.

Action taken or to be taken
The Office of Community Services (OCS) will issue a competitive program announcement for a three-year cooperative agreement for a national community economic development training and capacity development initiative. OCS will ensure that this program announcement includes a focus on high-quality board and staff training and proven technical assistance practices to enable community action agency leaders to attain the necessary professional skills needed to undertake projects focused on financing and implementing innovative housing, economic and community development partnerships.

FY 2009 House Appropriations Subcommittee Report Language

Item
Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program – The Committee recognizes the positive outcomes of the Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program, which has experienced success in facilitating economic self-sufficiency for newly arriving refugees within a short period of time. The Committee requests that ORR include information in its fiscal year 2010 budget justification estimating funding allocations, and the corresponding number of refugees served, for the Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010. (p. 195)

Action taken or to be taken
Please see the Refugee and Entrant Assistance chapter for the requested information, as requested by the Committee.

Item

Family Preservation for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) – The Committee commends the initial steps taken by ORR to address the problem of separated children and refugee family breakdown by piloting a family preservation specialist initiative in the URM Program. The Committee urges ORR to consider expanding this initiative to each of the 18 URM programs in the country. In addition, the Committee requests that ORR provide adequate funding to URM programs for capacity development so that they have the necessary infrastructure to accommodate increasing numbers of unaccompanied and separated refugee children. The Committee requests ORR to provide estimates of the number of family preservation specialists funded, along with corresponding estimates of the numbers of URM, for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 in the fiscal year 2010 budget justification. (p. 195)

Action taken or to be taken

Currently only one state (Virginia) is piloting a Family Preservation Specialist position, and we have not received sufficient data from that state regarding the pilot to justify a mandate for all URM programs to create such a position at this time. North Dakota and Massachusetts are considering adding similar positions in the future; however, the costs of mandating Family Preservation Specialist positions in every URM program are not included in ORR's budget request.

Please see the Refugee and Entrant Assistance chapter for the estimates of the number of URM for fiscal years 2008, 2009 and 2010, as requested by the Committee.

Item

Victims of Trafficking – The Committee is concerned that, in fiscal year 2007, this program certified only 303 child trafficking victims and recommends that ORR significantly expand its efforts to identify, assist, and certify human trafficking victims. The Committee also supports efforts to ensure that child trafficking victims do not remain trapped in life-threatening situations out of fear of being interrogated by law enforcement authorities. The Committee requests the Department to expedite letters of eligibility so that minor victims may be connected to benefits without delay. (pp. 195-196)

Action taken or to be taken

The HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is committed to ensuring that minor victims of trafficking do not remain trapped in life-threatening situations, and that these children are able to access the benefits and services to which they are entitled as victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons.

Under the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA of 2008), the HHS Secretary now is authorized to provide interim assistance to minors who have not received an Eligibility Letter, for up to 90 days, if credible information is presented that a child may be a trafficking victim. (Assistance may be extended an additional 30 days.) In addition, the TVPRA of 2008 gives the Secretary exclusive authority to determine minors' eligibility for interim assistance, but directs the Secretary to consult with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and nongovernmental organizations with expertise on victims of a severe form of trafficking before determining if the child is eligible for assistance as a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons.

Item

Pro Bono Pilot Program – The Committee commends ORR for implementing a pro bono pilot program for UACs and includes $5,100,000 within the UAC program to continue this initiative to ensure legal representation of all UACs. The Committee intends that these funds be used to train attorneys to detect abuse, mistreatment, labor exploitation, and trafficking of these children. In addition, the Committee expects a portion of these funds to be used to train attorneys in methods that will ensure the appearance of children at all immigration court hearings. Finally, the Committee requests a report be included in the

fiscal year 2010 budget justification on the effectiveness of this initiative, including the number and proportion of UACs provided pro bono legal representation. (p. 197)

Action taken or to be taken
ORR has contracted with the Vera Institute of Justice to implement the pro bono outreach pilot program. The program was expanded in FY 2008 to enhance the level of services and our focus was on three primary areas:

Expansion and Enhancement of Existing Sites ─ ORR has focused on building capacity in the most impacted areas to ensure increased availability of pro bono attorneys; availability of in-depth legal screenings by non-profit legal service providers; and ability to provide seamless referrals for children so that they have legal representation upon their release from ORR custody. In FY 2008, ORR funded Vera subcontractors in Portland, OR and Miami, FL, as well as increased funding to subcontractors in Illinois, Indiana, and Harlingen/Brownsville, TX. Vera also has subcontracted with two organizations to improve the ability to match children released from ORR custody with pro bono representation.

Legal Orientation ─ ORR also has begun a pilot program to provide legal orientations to custodian sponsors of children released from ORR custody. Through this pilot program, Vera is testing different methods for providing sponsors of released children with legal information about their rights and responsibilities related to the child's immigration case.

Attorney Training ─ Funding has been allocated to support training for attorneys to improve their ability to identify minors who may have immigration relief such as T-visas (trafficking), U-visas (victim of crime) and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). The Vera Institute has been working to develop training for legal service providers, utilizing not only experts in immigration law but also experts in child development. Vera has served as a coordinating entity responsible for managing, overseeing, and providing technical assistance to legal services providers, including conducting national training on legal remedy options.

Report on Pro Bono Efforts ─ During the two-year period of April 2006 – March 2008:

- The pro bono outreach pilot program operated in eleven sites (in Texas, California, New York, Florida, Illinois, and Arizona) during the study.
- The program reached 35 (out of 42 total) facilities during its duration, including shelter, foster care, staff-secure, and secure facilities.
- The program provided assistance to children in ten of the thirteen immigration court locations where there are established juvenile dockets for unaccompanied minors.
- The program worked through existing legal service non-profits, building capacity and targeting resources to improve these organizations' ability to connect UAC with pro bono representation.
- Approximately 61 percent of UAC in ORR care received, via the pro bono pilot program, legal screenings or some type of assistance in representing themselves (*pro se* representation). The monthly caseload for legal screening and preparation for hearings was estimated at 3,000 cases.
- It is unclear what percentage of all UAC (in ORR care and released) received representation, due to data limitations. Attorneys were present at the final hearings of 39 percent of children whose cases concluded while they were in ORR care.

Item
Breakout of UAC Program Costs – The Committee also requests that ORR include in its fiscal year 2010 budget justifications a detailed breakout of actual and estimated costs for shelter, medical, legal,

transportation, administrative, and other activities for the UAC Program for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010. (p. 197)

Action taken or to be taken

Please see the Refugee and Entrant Assistance chapter for the requested information, as requested by the Committee.

Item

Homeless Children – Public Law 110-134 includes provisions intended to enhance services for homeless children and increase their participation in Head Start. The Committee encourages ACF, in developing and implementing Head Start training and technical assistance, to work with organizations specializing in improving services to homeless children in early education programs. (p. 199)

Action taken or to be taken

The Office of Head Start (OHS) has established a new state-based training and technical assistance network. This network will work with entities like the State Head Start Collaboration Directors and the State Coordinators for the Education of Homeless Children in their respective states to find ways to help Head Start programs address the needs of homeless families. As this network begins to identify new and innovative ways to serve homeless children and families, we will share this information with other state providers and with our grantee network.

Item

Pre-kindergarten Response-to-Intervention – The Committee encourages ACF to examine a promising new area of early childhood education called Pre-kindergarten Response-To-Intervention, which may be an effective approach for students who struggle in the early years. Incorporating this approach in early childhood education might improve academic instruction for all preschool children, enhance school readiness, and prevent the need for special education services at the elementary level for many at-risk children. (p. 199)

Action taken or to be taken

The Office of Head Start appreciates the need for Head Start programs to be aware of new instruments and training materials that can help them provide the highest quality of service to their enrolled children and families. While OHS does not endorse any particular product, we are pleased to provide interested companies that contact us with a list of the names and addresses of all Head Start programs. We will forward such a list to the company that has developed the Pre-kindergarten Response-To-Intervention and encourage them to share their product with our grantees so that all Head Start programs can make an informed decision about their interest in this product.

Item

Migrant and Seasonal and Indian Head Start – The Committee is aware that Public Law 110-134 establishes a priority in funding for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program and Indian Head Start Program. It also requires a study on the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program, and on the Indian Head Start Program, in order to ensure that these families have adequate access to Head Start and that the barriers to such access are identified and addressed. The Committee requests that ACF report to the Committee on funding allocations to these targeted programs for fiscal year 2009. Further, the Committee requests that the Department submit the required reports to the House Committee on Appropriations upon their completion and brief the Committee on study findings within 30 days of their release. (p. 199)

Action taken or to be taken
The FY 2009 Head Start appropriation of $7,112,786,000 includes funding of $199,683,088 for Indian programs and $310,050,754 for Migrant and Seasonal programs. These funding levels will allow ACF to increase enrollment in these two programs by approximately 2,500 additional children **(**approximately 1,300 in Indian programs and 1,200 in Migrant/Seasonal programs). The two reports on the migrant and seasonal program and the Indian Head Start program will be forwarded to the Appropriations committee upon completion as requested, and briefings will be scheduled thereafter.

Item
Community-based Abstinence Education **—** The Committee requests ACF to provide a detailed breakout to the House Committee on Appropriations on the planned use of the 5 percent set-aside funds and the funds for the national abstinence education campaign. The Committee also requests ACF to include in this report the funds from the national abstinence education campaign that are being used for training and technical assistance. The Committee reinforces the guidance from its report accompanying the fiscal year 2005 appropriation with respect to the abstinence messages given by the public health entities that are grantees in the Community-Based Abstinence Education Program and to the conduct of evaluation activities for the program. (House report, pp. 208-209)

Action taken or to be taken
The requested information on ACF use of the technical assistance and capacity-building set-aside in fiscal year 2008 is provided below. No funds from the National Abstinence Education Campaign have been used for training and technical assistance.

Task	FY 2008
Continuation and Modification of Contract with National Capacity Building Organization – ACF competitively awarded a contract to provide support to grantees in five broad areas – sound business practices, compliance with federal law, integrating the latest medical and scientific findings, communicating clearly with constituent groups, and program evaluation. The contractor has delivered this training through a number of means, including a national grantees workshop, regional workshops, web casts, conference calls, and TA workshops. Hundreds of grantees and their staff have attended at least one of these training sessions.	$1,930,256
Peer Networking Technical Assistance Project – This project provides networking opportunities between grantees and other organizations. It provides the logistics to allow one group to connect with another group for TA purposes. For example, a grantee that is seeking to collaborate with a healthy marriage or responsible fatherhood program in the local community could receive consultation and guidance from an abstinence education grantee that is already collaborating with those partners in a different community.	$742,585
Reaching Youth In Schools – ACF encourages partnerships at Federal, State and local levels so that more youth can be reached with abstinence education in schools. TA funds are used to align abstinence education with state health guidelines so that CBAE programs will be offering needed services to schools.	$734,670
Technical Assistance for Programs Serving Vulnerable Youth – ACF partnered with USDA to provide for national training and technical assistance events aimed at building capacity and leveraging Federal dollars for programs serving vulnerable youth. Community based abstinence education grantees are given access to training opportunities at Land Grant College and University training centers that are designed for a broad array of providers, including non-profits, local government and state agencies.	$600,000

Task	FY 2008
Site Monitoring and Logistical Support – Funds are used to support monitoring CBAE grantees and conducting program analysis. The project provides for 24 site visits every year. Technical assistance may be provided based on results of site visits or program analysis.	$1,220,915
The National Clearinghouse - The Abstinence Education program office partners with other FYSB divisions to support the clearinghouse. The National Clearinghouse which is managed by JBS International, Inc. develops fact sheets and maintains a literature database. For the Abstinence Education Division, a bi-weekly electronic newsletter is sent to more than 600 subscribers that includes media stories, research findings, funding opportunities and other relevant information.	$405,489
Total	**$5,633,915**

FY 2009 Senate Appropriations Committee Report Language (S. Rpt. 110-410)

Item

Child Care and Development Block Grant – The Committee recommendation for resource and referral activities also includes $1,000,018 to continue support for a national toll free hotline that assists families in accessing local information on child care options and that provides consumer education materials. The Committee expects the grantee to monitor the quality of services provided to families as a result of the program. (p. 150)

Action taken or to be taken

ACF will develop a program announcement describing the national toll free hotline and outlining the requirements of the grant and evaluation criteria. The announcement will clearly state that the grantee is required to monitor the quality of services provided to families as a result of the program. The announcement will be disseminated, grant applications will be reviewed in the summer, and an award made no later than September 30, 2009.

Item

Head Start – The Committee understands the serious need for additional and expanded Head Start facilities in rural areas and among Native American populations. The Committee believes that the Department could help serve these needy communities by providing minor construction funding, as authorized, in remote Native American communities. The Head Start Bureau shall continue to provide the Committee with the number and cost of buses purchased, by region, with Head Start funds in the annual congressional budget justification. (p. 151)

Action taken or to be taken

The Office of Head Start continues to discuss with its American Indian and Alaskan Native (AIAN) grantees their needs for minor construction funding that will help assure Head Start children are being served in facilities of high quality. In FY 2008, OHS made $237,000 available to AIAN grantees for this purpose. In FY 2009, thus far, we have allocated $377,000.

During the 2007-2008 program year, Head Start programs purchased 248 buses at an estimated cost of $11,904,000. Specific data on the number and cost of buses purchased by ACF region are provided below:

2007-2008 Program Year	# Buses	Cost
Region I	23	$1,104,000
Region II	21	1,008,000

Region III	20	960,000
Region IV	52	2,496,000
Region V	60	2,880,000
Region VI	16	768,000
Region VII	18	864,000
Region VIII	2	96,000
Region IX	3	144,000
Region X	14	672,000
Indians	14	672,000
Migrants	5	240,000
Total	**248**	**$11,904,000**

Item

Child Abuse Programs – The Committee recommendation includes $12,000,000 within child abuse discretionary activities for a home visitation initiative. The comparable level for fiscal year 2008 is $10,000,000, the same as the administration request. This program provides competitive grants to States to encourage investment of existing funding streams into evidence-based home visitation models. The Administration for Children and Families [ACF] shall ensure that States use the funds to support models that have been shown, in well-designed randomized controlled trials, to produce sizable, sustained effects on important child outcomes such as abuse and neglect. The Committee expects ACF to adhere closely to evidence-based models of home visitation and not to incorporate any additional initiatives that have not met these high evidentiary standards or might otherwise dilute the emphasis on home visitation. (p. 152)

Action taken or to be taken

In FY 2008, ACF awarded 17 grants to support the infrastructure for evidence-based home visitation programs that are consistent with the language from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008. These grants are cooperative agreements, and were awarded for a 5 year project period which includes planning and implementation phases, as well as a rigorous local evaluation which includes process, outcome and cost components. ACF also awarded a national cross-site evaluation contract to provide evaluation related technical assistance to the grantees and to conduct a rigorous implementation and outcome study for this initiative. The grantees will also be offered programmatic technical assistance on maintaining program fidelity, implementation, and sustaining evidence-based programs.

Item

Child Welfare Services – The Committee continues its interest in ACF's Child and Family Services Reviews. As more States complete the second round of reviews, ACF should ensure that States are provided with appropriate resources to develop their performance improvement plans and obtain technical assistance. In particular, the Committee urges ACF to examine the need for additional resources for States in addressing child health and well-being issues. ACF should explore the possibility of expanding one of the existing National Resource Centers or, if warranted, establishing a new center on child health and well being. (p. 153)

Action taken or to be taken

The Children's Bureau appreciates the Congress' interest in supporting states in addressing issues of children's health and well-being. These issues are being addressed by existing technical assistance resources, and we do not believe that there is a need to establish a separate resource center for this purpose. Examples of the technical assistance related to child well-being outcomes provided through the Children's Bureau's Training and Technical Assistance Network , as well as links to available resources include:

- The Comprehensive Family Assessment Guidelines for Child Welfare were developed to guide agencies in developing systems to engage families and children in the assessment of needs and strengths. These guidelines can help State and tribal agencies conduct comprehensive family assessments for families involved with the child welfare system. These assessments may help agencies develop plans that match services to real needs and address families' key issues in the timeframes required by law. The guidelines were developed through a coordinated effort of the Children's Bureau Training and Technical Assistance Network and have been promoted via conferences, teleconferences and internet announcements.
  http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/family_assessment/index.htm

- Meeting the Health Care Needs of Children in the Foster Care System: Strategies for Implementation is available to be downloaded from the web. The project was supported through a collaboration between the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (Title V, Social Security Act), Health Resources and Services Administration, the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families of the Administration for Children and Families, and the Child, Adolescent, and Family Branch, Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This report provides detailed information and examples of the range of approaches being implemented to address the health care needs of children in the foster care system. It is designed to serve as a technical assistance tool for states and communities interested in developing and improving health care approaches.
  http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/files/products_publications/fcstrategies.pdf

- The National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning has an extensive topic oriented website. The links below provides access to resource, websites and multiple power point presentations related to serving children with disabilities in foster care.
  http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/child-and-adolescent-health-care.html
  http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/children-with-disabilities.html

- The National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement (NRCOI) offers a process and a set of tools child welfare agencies can use, in conjunction with community collaboratives, to assess and enhance their service array. The NRCOI provides training and technical assistance in the process of using these tools and customizing and adapting these tools to agency-specific situations.
  http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids/servicearray.htm

- The "Primer Hands On-Child Welfare!" is a comprehensive curriculum developed through a collaboration between the Children's Bureau, the NRCOI, the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at Georgetown University, and the Human Service Collaborative. The "Primer Hands On-Child Welfare!" provides curriculum for each step needed for a community to work together to develop coordinated seamless services for children and families. All of the materials in "Primer Hands On-Child Welfare!" can be downloaded from the National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement website.
  http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids/systemofcare.htm

Item

Social Services Research – The Committee feels strongly about preventing child maltreatment and ameliorating its adverse health effects. The Committee encourages ACF to enhance its child maltreatment prevention activities by: using population-based monitoring to capture information outside child protective services systems; promoting prevention and early intervention to identify and disseminate information about effective programs; advancing research to prevent the negative consequences of child maltreatment; and furthering the development and implementation of culturally appropriate and linguistically sensitive prevention and intervention approaches. The Committee also notes that children

with disabilities are a distinct high risk group for abuse and neglect. The Committee recommends targeted support for appropriate research, and the implementation of evidence-based prevention and early intervention efforts, for children with disabilities. (p. 154)

Action taken or to be taken
ACF is developing estimates of child maltreatment, including cases reported to child protective services as well as those that come from resources outside of child protective services, through the Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-4). Analyses will examine key demographic characteristics of maltreated children and their families, including children's disability status.

To advance the research on the consequences of child maltreatment, provide national estimates of child maltreatment and further other important areas of inquiry, ACF conducts the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (NSCAW). NSCAW provides the first nationally representative, longitudinal, comprehensive data that includes child and family well-being outcomes on children at risk of abuse or neglect or in the child welfare system. Analysis of the NSCAW data has examined topics such as estimates of children who may qualify for Supplemental Security Income, the levels and patterns of child health insurance coverage stability, and the relationships between involvement in the child welfare system and children's long term academic and social outcomes.

Towards the goal of preventing child maltreatment, ACF has launched a cross-site evaluation of 17 discretionary grants awarded for infrastructure building to support the implementation of evidence-based home visitation programs found to decrease child maltreatment. In addition, the Child Welfare Information Gateway and the National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention are training and technical assistance resources that, along with many other topics, provide information on evidence-based programs aimed at the prevention of child maltreatment. Finally, in the FY 2010 budget, ACF is proposing the enactment of a new mandatory home visitation program for low-income pregnant women and new mothers. Home visitation models that have been rigorously evaluated have been proven to have many positive effects for children and mothers, including reducing the incidence of child maltreatment.

To further the development and implementation of culturally appropriate and linguistically sensitive prevention and intervention approaches for child maltreatment, ACF is pursuing a number of efforts. First, some of the 17 awarded evidence-based home visitation grants will be working with the program developers to ensure the implemented programs are culturally and linguistically appropriate for the populations they serve. Second, the National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development, and the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning have undertaken specific initiatives to promote culturally appropriate and linguistically sensitive practice.

Item
Homeless Children – The Committee is aware of the dramatic increase in homeless children combined with the unique multiracial and multiethnic demographic environment in Hawaii. Forty-two percent of these children are under age 6, and have twice the sickness and hunger rates when compared to their peers. Studies also reveal that homeless children perform poorly in school. The Committee urges ACF to develop a knowledge base to create programs that will structure appropriate programs and services that will improve homeless children's health and learning. (p. 154)

Action taken or to be taken
ACF serves a number of high risk populations for whom homelessness may be an issue, and ACF-sponsored research protocols reflect the importance of this issue. Under the reauthorization of the Head Start Act, homeless children are categorically eligible for the program and the Secretary will issue

regulations to establish policies and procedures to remove barriers to the enrollment and participation of homeless children. Children who are in child welfare services, particularly those who are aging out of foster care, are at particular risk of homelessness. Information about homelessness is obtained, along with information about children's and youths' characteristics, functioning, and service needs, in the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (a nationally representative study of children who encounter child welfare services) and the Multisite Study of Foster Care Youth, which interviews adolescents and young adults who have been involved in interventions funded under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. Homelessness among younger children will be addressed through data captured in the newly launched survey of Early Head Start programs as well as through a partnership between ACF and the Department of Labor to collect information through the National Agricultural Workers Survey on Head Start-eligible children from migrant and seasonal farm-worker families.

Item

National Autism Family Resource and Information Center – The Committee encourages the Secretary to make funds available to establish a National Autism Family Resource and Information Center, which will provide families and other caregivers of individuals with autism spectrum disorders access to information about evidence-based interventions, services and protocols that can assist individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. (pp. 156-157)

Action taken or to be taken

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), Projects of National Significance (PNS), is currently funding a National Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Center on Family Support designed to share knowledge, promote collaboration and understanding, build skills, encourage self-determination, and facilitate collaborative problem solving among target audiences, especially families of children with disabilities. Included in the relevant disability groups and their state chapters will be the Autism Society of America. Other efforts within ADD also will address the needs of families and other caregivers of individuals with autism spectrum disorders and provide information and services to assist individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. These efforts include the Youth Information, Training and Resource Centers (PNS), for youth and emerging leaders with developmental disabilities, and the National Network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service program.

Item

Community Services – The Committee believes that training and technical assistance funding should build the local organizational resources needed to reduce poverty and rebuild communities. The Committee encourages OCS to develop and deliver the professional skills training needed by CAA leaders to undertake investments in projects that enhance their communities' future security by financing and implementing innovative housing, economic and community development partnerships. The Committee also believes that OCS should support development of linkages between local agencies, their national organizations and major academic institutions; such linkages could support dissemination to CAAs of applied research on effective responses to poverty conditions. The Committee also believes that OCS should continue to make grants to each statewide association of CAAs so they may continue and expand cost-effective training and other capacity-building services for their members. (p. 158)

Action taken or to be taken

See earlier response to the Omnibus/Senate item on Community Services Block Grant Training and Technical Assistance.

Item

Family Violence Prevention and Services – The Committee's funding recommendation reflects its belief that the family violence prevention and services program, including battered women's shelters, not only

provides critical services to victims fleeing from life-threatening violence but also prevents other costly social problems. The Committee encourages the Family and Youth Services Bureau to collaborate with other operating divisions within the Department to respond to the intersection of domestic violence and other health issues. This collaboration would be cost effective and has the potential to prevent domestic violence and many other public health concerns. (p. 159)

Action taken or to be taken
The Family Violence Prevention and Services Program (FVPSA Program) has supported the following two collaborative initiatives to respond to the intersection of domestic violence and health issues. These include:

- The Domestic Violence Initiative with the Indian Health Service (IHS) through which the FVPSA Program and IHS jointly funded nineteen pilot sites to develop culturally appropriate prevention strategies and resources for health care providers and victims in order the improve the health care response to domestic violence in IHS clinics. The pilot sites are implementing routine screening for domestic violence.

- The FVPSA Program is working closely with the Secretary's Office on Women's Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health in intra- and interagency work groups to develop collaborative research, prevention and interventions to address teen dating violence, and to improve research on domestic violence, including the significant health impacts of domestic violence.

Item
Program Administration – The Committee understands that pursuant to the authorizing legislation, the members of the Commission have already been appointed. To ensure that the work of the Commission is not delayed, the Committee directs the Secretary to keep in place the currently appointed members. (p. 160)

Action taken or to be taken
The Commission members originally appointed have been kept in place.

Item
Independent Living Services – The Committee urges HHS to clarify that States may not deny eligibility for independent living services to a youth who otherwise meets the eligibility criteria but is temporarily residing out of State, and that States may not terminate ongoing independent living assistance solely due to the fact that a youth is temporarily residing out of State. (p. 161)

Action taken or to be taken
ACF will provide this clarification to states as directed by the Committee in the Program Instruction providing guidance to states on submitting the new five-year Child and Family Services Plan, which includes states' plans for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. This program instruction is expected to be released in Spring 2009.

This page intentionally left blank.