

→ Edit this ✓

→ OMB working on #s, targets,
special needs or not for
Goal 1.

→ OMB working on definition
of program in Goal 2

→ Push HHS on other reg des

→ HHS to begin drafting EO ✓

→ Talk to Carol ✓

→ Talk to Gene re costs

→ Check in w/ Bruce Reed ✓

→ Tell Mac Reed this is
coming ✓

Bob Hoke (OPM)

606-1300

606-1344 (Fax)

ADOPTION
September 26, 1996

GOAL 1: Double the number of children who are adopted by setting targets for the number of children that should be placed over the next three years.

ACTIONS:

1. Help states that commit to meet these targets develop ways to help reach their goals and measure their success.
2. Give special commendations and hold White House events to recognize states that meet targets.
3. Give states financial bonuses if they reach or come within 5% of reaching annual targets.

GOAL 2: Find permanent homes for waiting children within one year of entering the child welfare system.

ACTIONS:

1. Change law so that hearings used to determine whether a child should move from foster care to adoption are held more frequently in order to shorten the amount of time a child spends in foster care.
2. Require adoption agencies to work toward finding children permanent homes at the same time as they consider whether to reunify children with their birth families. Today, agencies must first determine whether children should be returned to their birth parents and *then* begin the process of finding adoptive parents. This causes severe delays in finding permanent homes for waiting children.
3. Give grants to states to identify barriers to adoption and to place children who have been waiting particularly long times and those who are denied homes because there are no families of the same race available.

GOAL 3: Increase public awareness about the benefits of adoption.

ACTIONS:

1. Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to lead a public awareness effort, including public service announcements, use of the internet and the appointment of an advisory council made up of members of all sectors of the community.
2. Direct the Secretary of the Treasury to disseminate information about adoption tax benefits.
3. Direct the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to promote adoption among Federal employees and make the Federal government a model for adoption-friendly work policies.
4. Direct the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce to identify and recognize companies that have instituted model adoption-friendly policies.

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

November 7, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE SECRETARY OF LABOR
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Steps to Improve the Child Welfare System

Today, there are 450,000 children in America in the foster care system. Eight out of ten have special needs -- they are disabled, older, have siblings who also need to be adopted, or are minorities. On average, these children may wait as long as two years to be placed in a permanent home, and minority children may wait twice as long.

Caring adults are eager to offer permanent, loving homes to many of these children. Yet families often face significant obstacles, including complex regulations, prohibitive costs and outdated assumptions.

I believe we must do everything in our power to give these waiting children what every child in America deserves -- loving parents and a healthy, stable home. I believe we should work to meet three goals. First, we should double the number of waiting children who are adopted by the year [2002]. Second, we should find permanent homes for waiting children within one year of their entering the child welfare system. And third, we should increase public awareness about the benefits of adoption.

Today, therefore, I direct the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Labor and Commerce and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to take the following actions to meet these three goals.

1. To double the number of children in foster care adopted or permanently placed by the year [2002]

Of the 450,000 children in the nation's foster care system, about [.....] are legally free to be adopted and [.....] are waiting for another permanent placement. We should work with states so that [56,000 children are adopted or permanently placed out of the public welfare system in the year 2002].

Within sixty days, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will report to me on actions to be taken to double the number of children in foster care who are adopted or permanently placed. This report should include, but should not be limited to, recommendations in the following areas:

8,000 perm. placed

Double both groups

- (1) Plans to work with states on setting and reaching state specific numerical targets, through technical assistance, initiatives to involve community leaders, parents, the business and faith communities, and national resource centers to make information on best practices available to states. The details of the technical assistance program should be included in my budget submission to Congress this coming February.
- (2) [A financial per child bonus to states for each child adopted from the child welfare system above the number adopted in FY97 and a enhanced financial bonus per child adopted above the state specified targets.] The details of this program should be included in my budget submission to Congress this coming February.
- (3) Compilation and publication of an annual state-by-state report on success in meeting the numerical targets.
- (4) A strategy to recognize successful states.

50: \$5M / YR
BA: \$20M / 2002

2. To reduce to one year the average time necessary to find permanent homes for children in foster care

Current federal laws and regulations play a role in delaying appropriate permanent placements for children in the child welfare system. While the law requires that reasonable efforts be made to prevent placement and to reunify families, there is no comparable requirement to secure a permanent place for a child if a decision is made that the child cannot return home. The law should emphasize the importance of planning for permanency -- both through adoption and alternatives such as guardianship or kinship care. Barriers that needlessly keep children in foster care should be removed.

Within sixty days, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will report to me on actions to be taken to accomplish the goal of more rapid movement to permanency for children in foster care. This report should include, but should not be limited to, recommendations in the following areas:

(1) Legislative changes necessary to:

- a. Shorten the period between a child's placement in foster care and his or her first dispositional hearing from the current 18 months to 12 months;
- b. Change "dispositional hearings" to "permanency planning hearings" to clarify the purpose of the hearings and encourage, as appropriate, referrals for termination of parental rights, adoption, legal guardianship or other permanent placements;
- c. Require states to make diligent efforts to secure

amt of time
as deemed
appropriate

mediation

New goal

permanency through adoption or guardianship,
[after] a decision has been made that the child
cannot be returned home.

- d. Provide states with funding to identify barriers to permanency and to develop targeted strategies to place children who have been in foster care a particularly long time. The details of this program should be included in my budget submission to Congress this coming February.
- e. ^{Explore/examine} ~~Encourage~~ the pursuit of alternative permanency arrangements such as guardianship.

- (2) Regulatory changes necessary to redefine the reasonable efforts standard to ensure that permanency planning is accorded equal weight in the efforts by the child welfare system on the child's behalf.

3. Increase public awareness about the benefits of adoption

- (1) I direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and lead a public awareness effort, including use of public service announcements, print materials and the Internet.
- (2) I direct the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and the Treasury to develop and disseminate information about adoption tax benefits and other adoption benefits.
- (3) I direct the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce to identify and recognize companies in the private sector with model policies to encourage and ease adoption among employees.
- (4) I direct the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to direct all federal agencies to provide information and support to prospective adoptive parents.



FAX TRANSMISSION

Fax Number 301-251-5212

National Criminal Justice Reference Service
Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20850
800-851-3420
301-251-5500

(If transmission is incomplete, please call designated telephone number)

To: Pauline Abernathy Telephone Number: 202-456-5374
From: Margaret Baumer Telephone Number: 301-251-5194

Number of Pages Including Cover Page: 6

Message:

Additional Information on CASA

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

**OJJDP****JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN**

Robert W. Sweet, Jr., Administrator

Updated from 1987 printing

CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children... A Child's Voice in Court

Danny is an 8-year-old boy who was physically abused by his stepfather. A CASA volunteer, after carefully researching Danny's background, the facts in the case, and considering the child's own hopes and feelings, testified before the court that it would be in Danny's best interest to live, not in a foster home, but with his Aunt Marilyn. The CASA volunteer convinced the court to place Danny with his aunt, and was also able to obtain foster care payments from the State to help her take care of him. Danny had a safe, secure, and permanent home.

In Spanish "casa" means home. In today's juvenile justice system, CASA denotes a Court Appointed Special Advocate—a trained volunteer who advises the court about the best interests of a child, like Danny, whose home placement is being decided by the court—usually as a result of abuse or neglect. The CASA program tries to ensure that a child's right to a safe, permanent home is acted on by the court in a sensitive and expedient manner.

The CASA conducts an independent investigation of the case and submits a formal report advising the court about the best placement for the child. During the course of the investigation, the CASA will have spoken with many people—the child, parents and family members, neighbors, doctors, teachers, and others—and will have reviewed all pertinent records and documents.





The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is the lead federal agency in the juvenile justice system. It is responsible for the development and implementation of national policies and programs to prevent juvenile delinquency and to provide services to juveniles in the justice system. OJJDP is also responsible for the collection and dissemination of information on juvenile justice.

As estimated, 200,000 children nationwide are in foster care each year. The majority of these are in foster care because they have been neglected, abused, or abandoned by their parents who are physically or emotionally handicapped. The CASA program, in which OJJDP has invested approximately \$2 million, is designed to help alleviate future delinquency and adult criminality by helping children in foster care find a safe, permanent home.

In 1978, a nationwide study was conducted for OJJDP to evaluate volunteer programs in juvenile courts. The CASA program in Seattle, Washington, was named one of the most successful and innovative. Working with the Permanent Planning for Neglected and Abused Children project of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, OJJDP mandated the need to support their efforts in using CASA in all jurisdictions nationwide. An initial award was made to the National CASA Association through the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Due to the CASA program's continued success, the Association subsequently received additional grants and support for further expansion.

The CASA program works because volunteers make it work. This article explains how court-appointed volunteers advocate, educate, volunteer, work to provide the system with front-line information, and provide support. Arrangements by judges, prosecutors, and social workers, the CASA program is working to change the lives of children.

Robert W. Sweet, Jr.
Administrator
Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

History of the CASA program

In seeking to provide immediate protection to children suffering from parental abuse and neglect, courts have not always been able to address the children's long-term interests. In 1976, more than half a million children in the United States were in foster care, often unable to be reunited with their own families or adopted by new ones. Foster care—designed as a temporary shelter—had become a de facto permanent placement. The courts were not always

system in protecting the child's right to a safe and permanent family. When the Seattle program came to its attention, the committee voted to incorporate the Seattle volunteer concept as one of its models. The committee coined the umbrella term "Court Appointed Special Advocate"—CASA—denoting any volunteer following a clearly defined role as a friend of the court in dependency matters.

In 1978, a nationwide study was conducted for the Office of Juvenile

"An effective CASA program can assure the court that a child is prospering in the ordered placement, and that no child will be lost in the system," Judge Forest Eastman, President, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

able to ascertain just what placement would be best for the child's long-term welfare.

Judge David W. Soukup, then Presiding Judge of King County Superior Court in Seattle, Washington, began to look for ways to make sure the child's best interests could be consistently presented to the court. Traditionally, the child's advocate in court is the "guardian ad litem"—an attorney appointed by the court to represent a minor during litigation. Few court-appointed attorneys, however, had the time or the training to carry on the comprehensive investigation that would elicit the information the court needed.

Judge Soukup decided to recruit and train community volunteers—ordinary citizens—who would be asked to make a long-term commitment to each child for whom they would serve as guardian ad litem. Judge Soukup's concept became an active program on January 1, 1977. In its first year, the program provided 110 trained guardians ad litem for 498 children in 376 dependency cases.

In the fall of 1977, the Children in Placement Committee of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) was developing guidelines to assist the juvenile justice

Justice and Delinquency Prevention to evaluate volunteer programs in juvenile courts. The Seattle program was to... one of the most successful and innovative.

As reports of Seattle's success spread, new CASA programs sprang up in Rhode Island, California, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Connecticut, New York, and elsewhere. With Florida taking the lead, States began to pass legislation authorizing such programs.

Currently, there are more than 387 CASA (or volunteer guardian ad litem) programs in 47 States. Twelve States—Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Utah—have statewide programs that operate in the majority of jurisdictions and are mandated by State law. The programs often are known by different names—CASA, Guardian Ad Litem programs, Pro-Kids, Child Advocates, and Foster Child Advocate Services.

How the CASA program helps

The child: Before CASA, it was not unusual for dependent children to get "lost" in the red tape of court hearings.

JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN

Although their future depended on the juvenile court judge's placement decision, these children had no trained representative to thoroughly research their cases and speak for them in court. The courtroom was filled with professionals—social workers and attorneys—but no one had the time to find out what was really best for each child. As agents of the State, social workers considered the child's interests, but only in the larger context of what was best for the family unit. Attorneys were often present to advocate individual interests—the wishes of the persons who retained them. Judges often had to make a decision on where children would live, perhaps the rest of their lives, without sufficient information about the person that decision affected most directly—the child. Today, CASA volunteers are appointed by juvenile court judges to represent the best interest of the child in court.

"The CASA program has demonstrated that volunteers can effectively and inexpensively investigate the needs of children and articulate those needs to the court," Bruce P. Clausen, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Washington State.

Because they deal with only one or two children at a time, CASA volunteers have the time to thoroughly research each child's case. Their work pays off. CASA's provide the system with fresh insight and needed manpower. The information they gather helps form a more complete picture of that child's life for the judge. The CASA volunteer makes a recommendation—based on the facts—of what home placement the CASA thinks would be best. CASA volunteers have been the safety net that has kept many children, children like Danny, from falling through the cracks of the child welfare system. They have aided permanency planning efforts, and helped thousands of children to live in safe, secure, and stable homes.

The social worker: CASA volunteers assist social service agencies by gathering information that can help a case-worker develop an effective case plan

for a child. Since volunteers are trained to recognize the value and availability of community services that can help children and families, they often provide the caseworker with substantive information about what resources can help a child. The CASA volunteer also has the time to gather facts and information about each child's case—time overworked caseworkers, who sometimes carry 60 to 90 cases simultaneously, do not have to give.

The judge: CASA was started by a juvenile court judge as a means to bring more information about the child into the courtroom. In the past, many judges found that they were making placement decisions on incomplete and/or insufficient information. CASA volunteers are assigned to cases by a judge; an important aspect of a CASA's job is fact-finding for the court.

The attorney: CASA volunteers provide a vital link between the attorney and the child. Since CASA volunteers have the time to thoroughly research a child's case before it goes to court, they can provide important information to the court that will aid attorneys in doing their jobs. CASA volunteers also have received special training in child abuse and neglect—training most attorneys have not had. The CASA is able to bring that knowledge to the case, complementing the attorney's legal expertise.

Types of cases in which CASA's are appointed

CASA programs operate in dependency cases in which children have allegedly been abused, neglected, or abandoned by their families. The primary circum-

stances bringing a child to the attention of the court are defined as:

- ❑ **Neglect**—The failure of a parent or custodian to provide basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, clothing, education, and medical treatment.
- ❑ **Physical abuse**—Usually in the form of an assault by those responsible for the child's welfare.
- ❑ **Sexual abuse**—Including failure of the responsible adult to protect the child from sexual abuse by another person.
- ❑ **Abandonment**—Leaving a child without adequate care, supervision, support, or parental contact for extended or excessive periods of time.
- ❑ **Unwilling or unable**—In which a parent or custodian is unwilling or cannot care for a child due to the adult's own mental retardation, mental illness, or physical disability.
- ❑ **Psychological abuse**—Failure to provide the psychological nurturing necessary for a child's growth and development.

The role of the CASA

Only the court can appoint a CASA and only the court can dismiss a CASA for failure to meet responsibilities. Ideally, the appointment is made when a child's interests are first threatened and a petition is presented to the court. The appointment generally takes place during or immediately after the first hearing, which may be a shelter care or custody hearing.

The role of the CASA as a guardian ad litem is to investigate, evaluate, and recommend to the court what is truly in the child's best interests, both from a temporary and a long-term standpoint. The CASA serves as:

- ❑ **Investigator**—determining all relevant facts through personal interviews and a review of records, documents, and clinical data.
- ❑ **Advocate**—presenting the relevant facts before the court at hearings, through written reports, and direct testimony.



☐ **Facilitator or negotiator**—ensuring that the court, social services, and legal counsel fulfill their obligations to the child.

☐ **Monitor of all court orders**—ensuring compliance by all parties and bringing to the court's attention any changes in circumstances that may require modification of the court order.

organizations, securing funding, hiring program managers, and participating in the training and recognition of volunteers.

Potential resistance from attorneys and social workers can be defused by clearly defining the CASA role in the proceedings and by working closely with these professional groups. A CASA is likely

☐ Independent, objective thinking.

☐ Dedication to completing a thorough investigation.

☐ Ability to serve as an active CASA during the entire litigation of the case.

☐ Impartiality.

☐ Communication skills.

☐ Willingness and ability to learn.

"When CASA is involved in a case, you know the system is going to be working at peak efficiency," Patrick Murphy, Public Guardian of Cook County, Illinois.

CASA volunteers are the eyes and ears of the court, making independent, objective recommendations regarding the child's best interests. Judges have come to count heavily on the CASA's independent assessment and recommendations. However, since the CASA is only one of the parties providing recommendations to the court, the court may or may not accept the CASA's recommendations. Each case is determined on the facts presented by all parties and how those facts relate to the case and State and Federal law.

Establishing a successful CASA program

Developers of successful CASA programs have taken care to integrate them into the existing justice system and the community. They have identified the following requisites for success:

- ☐ The support of a strong judge to serve as the program's advocate and mentor.
- ☐ A clear definition of the CASA role.
- ☐ The appointment of an efficient, effective program manager.
- ☐ The recruitment and training of a broad spectrum of volunteers.

A strong judge can provide the impetus for the program, enlist community support, and secure expert training for the volunteers. Often judges have been the prime movers—presenting proposals to the entire bench, meeting with related

to come into frequent contact with both attorneys and social workers during the course of the case. Enlisting the trust and cooperation of all professionals in the juvenile justice system is an important aspect of the CASA program.

Selecting a program manager is a key decision that should be made as soon as the CASA program is authorized. Most CASA programs have hired program managers with social service backgrounds, but a few have chosen attorneys. The program manager recruits the volunteers, assigns a CASA to specific cases, supervises and consults with the CASA during the cases, develops and implements training programs, and forges cooperative relationships with key court personnel, child welfare agencies, and the community at large.

Becoming a CASA volunteer

Typical CASA recruitment literature states:

If you are a mature, responsible adult who can relate to families in stressful situations, and are willing to commit your time to ensure that the existing process for the placement of children works better, you may become a CASA.

Successful programs report that applicants tend to screen themselves when they are provided with thorough, accurate information prior to their interviews. Interviewers look for applicants exhibiting:

CASA Receives President's Volunteer Action Award

In 1985, CASA volunteers nationwide were recognized for their work with abused and neglected children when the National CASA Association received the President's Volunteer Action Award for outstanding American volunteer achievement.

CASA was selected from among 1,500 nominations received from local, regional, and national volunteer organizations. The award, presented each year to recipients in 10 categories, was presented to CASA by President Ronald Reagan in a special White House ceremony.

In the citation, President Reagan called the award recipients "organizations who have shown that the only limits on our ability to help others are our own imagination and determination."

The National CASA Association was recognized for its achievements, including its growth from one local program in 1976 to 131 programs nationwide in just 8 years. In 1989, there were more than 347 CASA programs speaking for America's children in 47 States.

The President's Volunteer Action Award is cosponsored by VOLUNTEER—the National Center, a private nonprofit organization, and ACTION, the Federal agency for volunteer service.



JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN

The volunteer's special expertise in such fields as child development, drug abuse, and retardation may be particularly useful to the court. Previous traumas (sexual abuse, disability of a family member, abandonment) also may contribute to the CASA's ability to deal sensitively with the child.

Training

Because each CASA program is unique to the needs of the jurisdiction it serves and each volunteer's experience, expertise, and background vary, CASA training has taken many forms.

The initial preservice training, which takes from 10 to 45 hours, focuses on child abuse and its causes, the character

National CASA Association

The National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association was formed in 1982 to strengthen the integrity and professionalism of its members in their responsibilities as child advocates, and to unify and promote the national network of CASA programs.

The Association offers training for CASA program directors and volunteers; technical assistance to new and established CASA programs; current news on legislation, program development, and case law in a quarterly newsletter, *The Connection*; an annual national conference where volunteers and others from the child welfare system exchange

Department of Justice provides funding for the National CASA Association. For information on becoming a member, write the National CASA Association, 2722 Eastlake Avenue, East, Suite 220, Seattle, WA 98107

For more information

The following organizations can provide more information, and help courts and communities interested in establishing a CASA program:

National CASA Association
2722 Eastlake Avenue, East
Suite 220
Seattle, WA 98102
Attn: Beth Waid, Executive Director
Tel. 206-328-8588

Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention
U.S. Department of Justice
633 Indiana Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20531
Tel. 202-724-7573

National Council of Juvenile and
Family Court Judges
P.O. Box 8970
Reno, NV 89507
Attn: Robert Praksti, Project Director,
Permanency Planning Project
Tel. 702-784 6737

"CASA's most important feature is that it is a people-to-people program. It matches caring, well-trained volunteers with children who otherwise might have no voice in determining their own future," Judge Tom McDonald, District Court Judge, Louisville, Kentucky.

of advocacy, juvenile justice legal procedures, foster care and placement, and the CASA role.

These and more specific topics related to the volunteer's responsibilities are treated in greater detail during inservice training. Experience has shown that volunteers working on cases benefit particularly from simultaneous training. Consultation with both administrative and legal staff serves as further essential inservice training for all CASA's.

ideas and information; start up funds for individuals interested in launching CASA programs; and resource materials designed specifically for CASA program directors and volunteers.

The Association also promotes the CASA concept through ongoing public awareness efforts. Information kits, promotional items, and public service announcements are available to programs, courts, and communities.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the U.S.

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program Offices and Bureaus: the Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

NCJ 111392

11/08/96

17:36

202 514 6382

OJJDP

001

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

**OJJDP****Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention**

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE:

11-8-96

TO:

Pauline Abernathy

FAX NO.:

(202) 456-2878

TELEPHONE NO.: ()

FROM:

SHAY BILCHIK

ADMINISTRATOR

OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

633 INDIANA AVENUE, N.W., ROOM 742

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531

OR

FAX NO.: (202) 307-2093

TELEPHONE NO.: (202) 307-5911

NUMBER OF PAGES:

34

[includes this fax transmittal sheet]

ADDITIONAL

INFORMATION:

If you have NOT received all pages, please call me at the above-listed telephone number.

THANK YOU.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 85-JS-CX-K027

PROJECT TITLE: PERMANENT FAM FOR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN: NTTAP III

GRANTEE: National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges

ADDRESS: PO Box 8970
Reno, NV 89507

GRANT PERIOD: 04/15/84 TO 03/31/94

LATEST AWARD DATE: 02/12/93

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 5,688,088

GRANT CONTACT: PRAKSTI, R.

GRANT MANAGER: Brown

FY85	\$1,477,888	85JSCKK027	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 00	ACTION DATE: 06/17/85
FY86	\$225,000	85JSCKK027	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 01	ACTION DATE: 12/27/85
FY86	\$416,667	85JSCKK027	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 02	ACTION DATE: 06/06/86
FY86	\$2,055,564	85JSCKK027	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 03	ACTION DATE: 09/15/86
FY88	\$400,000	85JSCKK027	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 04	ACTION DATE: 02/12/88
FY89	\$71,130	85JSCKK027	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 05	ACTION DATE: 03/31/89
FY89	\$147,839	85JSCKK027	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 06	ACTION DATE: 09/29/89
FY90	\$219,000	85JSCKK027	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 07	ACTION DATE: 05/07/90
FY91	\$225,000	85JSCKK027	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 08	ACTION DATE: 06/20/91
FY92	\$225,000	85JSCKK027	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 09	ACTION DATE: 03/23/92
FY93	\$225,000	85JSCKK027	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 10	ACTION DATE: 02/12/93

5,688,088

PROJECT SUMMARY

The primary purpose of this award is to enhance the government's response to child abuse and neglect. It will help prevent children from lingering in costly foster care through emphasis in family reunification and adoption.

Project activities will include training in six states on "reasonable efforts", four national training conferences, continued dissemination of their publication on making reasonable efforts in drug cases and their Reasonable Efforts Training Video Notebook and Library. There will be continued coordination and cooperation with the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.

A major new objective this year is to expand training and technical assistance activities to include the application of "reasonable efforts" and other Pub. Law 96-272 provisions to juvenile justice cases. A "Protocol for Making Reasonable Efforts to Preserve Families in Juvenile Justice Cases" will be developed.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: ADJUDICATION

PROJECT NUMBER: 90-JS-CX-K001

PROJECT TITLE: SDYAP NONPARTICIPATING STATE INITIATIVE

GRANTEE: South Dakota Youth Advocacy Project

ADDRESS: 115 East Dakota Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/90 TO 09/30/93

LATEST AWARD DATE: 09/30/92

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 875,000

GRANT CONTACT: LUKE, K.

GRANT MANAGER: Crank

FY90	\$225,000	90JSCXK001	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 00	ACTION DATE: 05/21/90
FY91	\$325,000	90JSCXK001	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 01	ACTION DATE: 01/03/91
FY92	\$325,000	90JSCXK001	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 02	ACTION DATE: 09/30/92

875,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

The goal of this project is to provide program incentives and mechanisms for adequate planning which will allow the State of South Dakota to conform to the mandates of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. This is a short-term project for the grantee. The South Dakota Youth Advocacy Project may not continue as a grant recipient of Nonparticipating State funds after this project has been completed. The local projects funded under this grant are demonstration projects intended to prove their effectiveness and be adopted by the sponsoring agency and others. Implementation efforts will probably include alternatives to secure confinement, alternatives to jail, and the development of intake criteria.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 90-JS-CX-K002

PROJECT TITLE: CASA FOR ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN: NATL TRNG & TA PROJ

GRANTEE: National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

ADDRESS: 100 West Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98119

GRANT PERIOD: 10/01/85 TO 03/31/95

LATEST AWARD DATE: 01/08/93

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 3,400,000

GRANT CONTACT: PIRAINO, M.

GRANT MANAGER: Brown

FY90	\$500,000	90JSCKK002	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 00	ACTION DATE: 02/27/90
FY90	\$150,000	90JSCKK002	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 01	ACTION DATE: 04/30/90
FY91	\$750,000	90JSCKK002	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 02	ACTION DATE: 01/02/91
FY92	\$1,000,000	90JSCKK002	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 03	ACTION DATE: 01/08/92
FY93	\$1,000,000	90JSCKK002	FUND CODE JS	SUPPLEMENT: 04	ACTION DATE: 01/08/93

3,400,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

This award will enable the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association to continue to effectively assist in the development of new CASA programs in collaboration with the "Permanent Planning for Abused and Neglected Children" project of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; provide training and training materials to program directors and volunteers in all fifty states; and inform the general public about CASA. A CASA, a Court Appointed Special Advocate, is a trained volunteer who recommends a plan that will serve the best interest of the child. CASA recommendations to the court are based upon an independent thoroughly researched investigation of the facts as they relate to the child's circumstances. The CASA appears at all court proceedings regarding the child and monitors all court orders, ensuring compliance by all parties and bringing changes in circumstances affecting the child that might require modifications of the court order to the attention of the court.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 93-JN-CX-0003

PROJECT TITLE: National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers

GRANTEE: National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc.

ADDRESS: 1319 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20004

GRANT PERIOD: 07/15/93 TO 08/14/95

LATEST AWARD DATE: 08/03/94

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 750,000

GRANT CONTACT: CHANDLER, N.

GRANT MANAGER: Delany-Shaba

FY93	\$250,000	93JNXX0003	FUND CODE JN	SUPPLEMENT: 00	ACTION DATE: 07/23/93
FY94	\$500,000	93JNXX0003	FUND CODE JN	SUPPLEMENT: 01	ACTION DATE: 08/03/94

750,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

The purpose of this grant is to allow the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers to provide training and technical assistance to assist in development or expansion of local children's advocacy centers. The Network will assist communities to respond to child abuse by facilitating multidisciplinary cooperation and coordination, and customized training at local sites. The Network's three year strategic plan focuses on services to members, strengthening the internal operation of the Network and increasing the visibility and image of the Network through leadership and a national presence. This year the National Network will develop a set of core competencies for programs affiliated with the Network, develop a tracking system, and begin an evaluation process.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 93-JS-CX-K001

PROJECT TITLE: CASA FOR ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN NATL GRANTS ADMIN PROJ

GRANTEE: National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

ADDRESS: 100 West Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98119

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/93 TO 03/31/96

LATEST AWARD DATE: 01/19/93

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 1,000,000

GRANT CONTACT: Piraino, M.

GRANT MANAGER: Brown

FY93 \$1,000,000 93JSCXK001 FUND CODE JS SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 01/19/93

1,000,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

This grant will allow the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association to award and administer grant funds to new and existing local and state court appointed special advocate (CASA) programs in order to increase the number of CASA/GAL volunteers to serve more abused and neglected children in court settings. The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association provides training and technical assistance to program directors and volunteers. A CASA is a trained volunteer who recommends a plan that will serve the best interest of the child. CASA recommendations to the court are based upon a independent thoroughly researched investigation of the facts as they relate to the child's circumstances. The CASA appears at all court proceedings regarding the child and monitors all court orders, ensuring compliance by all parties and bringing changes in circumstances affecting the child that might require modifications of the court order to the attention of the court.

NCASSA expects to award subgrants for a two-year period in amounts ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000. All subgrants will be awarded to "associate beneficiaries" or organizational affiliates that will perform functions to implement the purposes of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CAREER CRIMINAL/SERIOUS JUV OFF

PROJECT NUMBER: 93-JS-CX-K002

PROJECT TITLE: DUE PROCESS ADVOCACY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

GRANTEE: American Bar Association

ADDRESS: 740 15th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

GRANT PERIOD: 10/01/93 TO 09/30/95

LATEST AWARD DATE: 09/30/94

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 350,000

GRANT CONTACT: SMITH, T.

GRANT MANAGER: Chambers

FY93 \$100,000 93JSCKX002 FUND CODE JS SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 09/30/93

FY94 \$250,000 93JSCKX002 FUND CODE JS SUPPLEMENT: 01 ACTION DATE: 09/30/94

350,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

The overall design of the project is to increase the access of juvenile offenders to legal services and to improve the quality of preadjudicated, and dispositional advocacy for juvenile offenders. The American Bar Association (ABA) and its partners the Youth Law Center of San Francisco, California and the Juvenile Law Center for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will conduct an assessment of legal service programs for juveniles in the States and localities. They will also examine Federal and State laws related to the issues of juvenile representation. The ABA will also examine all relevant literature. The product of this effort will be a report. The first year from the information developed during this assessment, ABA began to develop strategies for improving access to counsel and they began developing training materials to improve the quality of services. During this second year, project activities will be directed toward preparing the final report on survey results, preparing and pretesting the curriculum, and conducting multi-site training. Resource materials will be developed to enhance the efforts of public defenders, state and local bar associations, and children's law centers to improve the quality of defense services for youth. The third year the ABA will provide training throughout the country.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 94-CH-CX-K001

PROJECT TITLE: CASA FOR ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN: NATL GRANTS ADMIN PROJ

GRANTEE: National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

ADDRESS: 100 West Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98118

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/94 TO 12/31/96

LATEST AWARD DATE: 02/17/94

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 3,500,000

GRANT CONTACT: PIRAINO, M.

GRANT MANAGER: Brown

FY94 \$3,500,000 94CHCXK001 FUND CODE CH SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 02/17/94

3,500,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

This grant will allow the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (NCASAA) to award and administer grant funds for new and existing local and state court appointed special advocate (CASA) programs in order to increase the number of CASA/GAL volunteers to serve more abused and neglected children in court settings. The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association provides training and technical assistance to program directors and volunteers. A CASA is a trained volunteer who recommends a plan that will serve the best interest of the child. CASA recommendations to the court are based upon an independent thoroughly researched investigation of the facts as they relate to the child's circumstances. The CASA appears at all court proceedings regarding the child and monitors all court orders, ensuring compliance by all parties and bringing changes in circumstances affecting the child, that require modifications of the court order, to the attention of the court.

NCASAA expects to award up to 80 subgrants for a two-year period in amounts ranging from \$20,000 to \$75,000 each. All subgrants will be awarded to "associated beneficiaries" or organizational affiliates that will perform functions to implement the purposes of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 94-CH-CX-K002

PROJECT TITLE: CASA FOR ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN: NATIONAL T & TA PROJ

GRANTER: National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

ADDRESS: 100 West Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98119

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/94 TO 03/31/95

LATEST AWARD DATE: 03/02/94

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 1,000,000

GRANT CONTACT: PIRAINO, M.

GRANT MANAGER: Brown

FY94 \$1,000,000 94CHCXK002 FUND CODE CH SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 03/02/94

1,000,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

This award will enable the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association to continue to effectively assist in the development of new CASA programs in collaboration with the "Permanent Planning for Abused and Neglected Children" project of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; provide training and training materials to program directors and volunteers in all fifty states; and inform the general public about CASA. A CASA, a Court Appointed Special Advocate, is a trained volunteer who recommends a plan that will serve the best interest of the child. CASA recommendations to the court are based upon an independent thoroughly researched investigation of the facts as they relate to the child's circumstances. The CASA appears at all court proceedings regarding the child and monitors all court orders, ensuring compliance by all parties and bringing changes in circumstances affecting the child that might require modifications of the court order to the attention of the court. In 1994, NCASAA will begin to implement its urban program development initiative with the assistance of its corporate council. This six year project will target large urban areas where a CASA program will be initiated or an existing program will be helped to expand.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CAREER CRIMINAL/SERIOUS JUV OFF

PROJECT NUMBER: 95-JS-FX-K003

PROJECT TITLE: Due Process Advocacy Program Development

GRANTOR: American Bar Association

ADDRESS: 740 15th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

GRANT PERIOD: 10/01/93 TO 03/31/97

LATEST AWARD DATE: 02/09/96

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 750,000

GRANT CONTACT: Puritz, P.

GRANT MANAGER: Dodge

FY95 \$250,000 95JSFXK003 FUND CODE JS SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 03/24/95
FY96 \$500,000 95JSFXK003 FUND CODE JS SUPPLEMENT: 01 ACTION DATE: 02/09/96

750,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

The overall design of the project is to increase the access of juvenile offenders to legal services and to improve the quality of preadjudicated, and dispositional advocacy for juvenile offenders. The American Bar Association (ABA) and its partners, the Youth Law Center of San Francisco, California and the Juvenile Law Center of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania will conduct an assessment of legal service programs for juveniles in the States and localities. They will also examine Federal and State laws related to the issues of juvenile representation and all relevant literature. The first product of this effort will be a report on the status of defense services and recommendations for expanding and improving those services. From the information developed during this assessment, ABA will develop strategies for improving access to counsel and training materials to improve the quality of services. During this second year, project activities will be directed toward preparing the final report on survey results, preparing and pretesting the curriculum, and identifying implementation steps. Resource materials will be developed to enhance the efforts of public defenders, state and local bar association, and children's law centers to improve the quality of defense services for youth. The third year the ABA will provide training throughout the country.

The supplemental award will allow the development of strategies that state and local bar associations can use to increase availability of defense council; develop comprehensive training materials and a training program for lawyers, judges, and others who may assist defense lawyers, and test and refine the training program; develop a marketing or distribution process so that the program can be transferred to State and local bar associations and other relevant organizations; and finalize the training materials and training program and distribute to State and local bar associations and other relevant organizations.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 95-VI-GX-K001

PROJECT TITLE: CASA Program Development for Native American Tribal Courts

GRANTEE: National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

ADDRESS: 100 West Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98119

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/95 TO 06/30/97

LATEST AWARD DATE: 09/30/96

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 153,635

GRANT CONTACT: Piraino, M.

GRANT MANAGER: Brown

FY95 553,635 95VIGKK001 FUND CODE VI SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 04/11/95

FY96 \$100,000 95VIGKK001 FUND CODE VI SUPPLEMENT: 01 ACTION DATE: 09/30/96

153,635

PROJECT SUMMARY

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a volunteer trained to represent the best interests of the child in dependency, abuse, and neglect proceedings. The CASA communicates with all parties involved in the case and provides an independent thoroughly researched plan to the court, monitors all court proceedings, and brings any changes in circumstances to the attention of the court.

This cooperative agreement will support the four developing tribal CASA programs by providing funding, telephone and on-site technical assistance and training, and resource materials. The award will also provide planning grants and training and technical assistance to two additional tribal communities to develop a CASA program and allow the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (NCAASAA) to conduct a tribal grantee meeting.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 96-CH-NX-K001

PROJECT TITLE: Court Appointed Special Advocates for Abused & Neglected Children: A National Training and Technical Assistance

GRANTEE: National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

ADDRESS: 100 West Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98119

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/94 TO 02/24/97

LATEST AWARD DATE: 07/25/96

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 315,000

GRANT CONTACT: Piraino, M.

GRANT MANAGER: Brown

FY96 \$315,000 96CHNXK001 FUND CODE CH SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 07/25/96

315,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

This award will enable the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association to continue to effectively assist in the development of new CASA programs in collaboration with the "Permanent Planning for Abused and Neglected Children" project of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; provide training and training material; to program directors and volunteers in all fifty states; and inform the general public about CASA. A CASA, a Court Appointed Special Advocate, is a trained volunteer who recommends a plan that will serve the best interest of a child. CASA recommendations to the court are based upon an independent thoroughly researched investigation of the facts as they relate to the child's circumstances. The CASA appears at all court proceedings regarding the children and monitors all court orders, ensuring compliance by all parties and bringing changes in circumstances affecting the child that might require modifications of the court order to the attention of the court. NCASAA will continue its outreach to large urban areas without CASA programs with the assistance of its corporate council. A continuing focus will be placed on the development of statewide organizations. CASA will also continue providing competitive subgrants to new and existing programs and statewide organization through a second grant to the National Association. NCASAA will also continue development of its online computerized information system, CASANET.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 96-CH-NX-K002

PROJECT TITLE: CASA: A National Grants Program Administration Project

GRANTEE: National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

ADDRESS: 100 West Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98119

GRANT PERIOD: 06/01/96 TO 05/31/99

LATEST AWARD DATE: 07/26/96

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 4,940,000

GRANT CONTACT: Piraino, M.

GRANT MANAGER: Brown

FY96 54,940,000 96CHNXK002 FUND CODE CH SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 07/26/96

4,940,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

This grant will allow the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (NCASAA) to award and administer grant funds for new and existing local and state court appointed special advocate (CASA) programs in order to increase the number of CASA/GAL volunteers to serve more abused and neglected children in court settings. The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association provides training and technical assistance to program directors and volunteers. A CASA is a trained volunteer whom recommends a plan that will serve the best interest of the child. CASA recommendations to the court are based upon an independent, thoroughly researched investigation of the facts as they relate to the child's circumstances. The CASA appears at all court proceedings regarding the child and monitors all court orders, ensuring compliance by all parties and bringing changes in circumstances affecting the child, that might require modification of the court order, to the attention of the court.

All subgrants will be awarded to "associated beneficiaries" or organizational affiliates that will perform functions to implement the purposes of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association. Subgrants will range from \$20,000 to \$80,000 and will be for a two-year period. Applicants must agree to comply with NCASAA standards for CASA/GAL programs.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 96-MU-MU-0015

PROJECT TITLE: Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center

GRANTEE: La Rabida Childrens Hospital and Research Center

ADDRESS: East 65th at Lake Michigan
Chicago, IL 60619

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/97 TO 12/31/97

LATEST AWARD DATE: 09/30/96

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 134,914

GRANT CONTACT: Nirde, F.

GRANT MANAGER: Delany-Shaba

FY96 510,000 96MUMU0015 FUND CODE VF SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 09/30/96

FY96 124,914 96MUMU0015 FUND CODE CI SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 09/30/96

134,914

PROJECT SUMMARY

This award provides for the continued development of efforts of the Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center (MRCAC). The purpose of the MRCAC is to improve communities' response to child abuse and neglect cases by assisting them in the development of multidisciplinary, interagency teams that collaborate in the prosecution, intervention, treatment and prevention of such cases. The MRCAC does this by providing training, a continuum of technical assistance from telephone support to on-site, intensive consultation and resource materials. Efforts are coordinated with the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers and the other three regional CACs. This project year, the MRCAC will focus on: encouraging and promoting the development of organized, formal statewide and sub-regional networks, developing models for constituent involvement and collaborating with the other RCACs on mutual projects.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 96-MU-MU-K009

PROJECT TITLE: National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers

GRANTEE: National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc.

ADDRESS: 1319 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20004

GRANT PERIOD: 10/01/96 TO 03/31/98

LATEST AWARD DATE: 09/17/96

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 2,010,000

GRANT CONTACT: Chandler, N.

GRANT MANAGER: Delany-Shaba

FY96	\$10,000	96MUMUK009	FUND CODE VF	SUPPLEMENT: 00	ACTION DATE: 09/17/96
FY96	\$2,000,000	96MUMUK009	FUND CODE CI	SUPPLEMENT: 00	ACTION DATE: 09/17/96

2,010,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

The purpose of this award is to improve the response of local communities to abuse and neglect by providing grant funds and expertise directly to local children's advocacy centers in support of program development, staffing, technical assistance and training.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: SYSTEM SUPPORT

PROJECT NUMBER: 94-CI-CX-K001

PROJECT TITLE: NATL NETWORK OF CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS: A GRANTS ADMIN

GRANTEE: National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc.

ADDRESS: 1319 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20004

GRANT PERIOD: 10/01/94 TO 03/31/96

LATEST AWARD DATE: 09/30/94

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 1,000,000

GRANT CONTACT: CHANDLER, N.

GRANT MANAGER: Delany-Shaba

FY94 \$1,000,000 94CICKX001 FUND CODE CI SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 09/30/94

1,000,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

The purpose of this grant is to allow the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers to provide training and technical assistance to assist in development or expansion of local children's advocacy centers. The Network will assist communities to respond to child abuse by facilitating multidisciplinary cooperation and customized training at local sites. Under this cooperative agreement, The National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers will provide technical assistance to communities through site visits, mentoring, and on-site consultation; provide grants for training for the entire multi-disciplinary team either on or off-site as well as provide special training as needed; and provide grants for program development to existing programs to allow enhancement of the local program.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 94-JS-CX-K001

PROJECT TITLE: PERMANENT FAM. FOR ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN, NTTAP III

GRANTEE: National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges

ADDRESS: PO Box 8970
Reno, NV 89507

GRANT PERIOD: 04/15/84 TO 03/31/95

LATEST AWARD DATE: 04/05/94

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 225,000

GRANT CONTACT: PRAKSTI, R.

GRANT MANAGER: Brown

FY94 \$225,000 94JSCKK001 FUND CODE JS SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 04/05/94

225,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

The primary purpose of this award is to enhance the government's response to child abuse and neglect. It will help prevent children from lingering in costly foster care through emphasis on family reunification and adoption.

Project activities will include training in six states on "reasonable efforts"; four national training conferences; and continued dissemination of their publication on making reasonable efforts in drug cases and their Reasonable Efforts Training Video Notebook and Library. There will be continued coordination and cooperation with the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.

This year the Council will continue a major new objective to expand training and technical assistance activities to include the application of "reasonable efforts" and other Pub. Law 96-272 provisions to juvenile justice cases. A "Protocol for Making Reasonable Efforts to Preserve Families in Juvenile Justice Cases" will be developed.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 95-CH-FX-K001

PROJECT TITLE: CASA for Abused & Neglected Children: National Training and Technical Assistance Project

GRANTEE: National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

ADDRESS: 100 West Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98119

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/94 TO 02/24/97

LATEST AWARD DATE: 02/02/96

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 1,685,000

GRANT CONTACT: Piraino, M.

GRANT MANAGER: Brown

FY95 \$1,000,000 95CHFXX001 FUND CODE CH SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 01/31/95

FY96 5685,000 95CHFXX001 FUND CODE CH SUPPLEMENT: 01 ACTION DATE: 02/02/96

1,685,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

This award will enable the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association to continue to effectively assist in the development of new CASA programs in collaboration with the "Permanent Planning for Abused and Neglected Children" project of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; provide training and training materials to program directors and volunteers in all fifty states; and inform the general public about CASA. A CASA, a Court Appointed Special Advocate, is a trained volunteer who recommends a plan that will serve the best interest of the child. CASA recommendations to the court are based upon an independent thoroughly researched investigation of the facts as they relate to the child's circumstances. The CASA appears at all court proceedings regarding the child and monitors all court orders, ensuring compliance by all parties and bringing changes in circumstances affecting the child that might require modifications of the court order to the attention of the court. NCASAA will continue its outreach to large urban areas without CASA programs with the assistance of its corporate council. A continuing focus will be placed on the development of statewide organizations. CASA will also continue providing competitive subgrants to new and existing programs and statewide organizations through a second grant to the National Association.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 95-CH-FX-K002

PROJECT TITLE: CASA FOR ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN: NATL GRANTS ADMIN PROJ

GRANTEE: National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association

ADDRESS: 100 West Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98119

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/95 TO 12/31/97

LATEST AWARD DATE: 01/31/95

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 5,000,000

GRANT CONTACT: PIRAINO, M.

GRANT MANAGER: Brown

FY95 55,000,000 95CHFXK002 FUND CODE CH SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 01/31/95

5,000,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

This grant will allow the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (NCASAA) to award and administer grant funds for new and existing local and state court appointed special advocate (CASA) programs in order to increase the number of CASA/GAL volunteers to serve more abused and neglected children in court settings. The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association provides training and technical assistance to program directors and volunteers. A CASA is a trained volunteer who recommends a plan that will serve the best interest of the child. CASA recommendations to the court are based upon an independent, thoroughly researched investigation of the facts as they relate to the child's circumstances. The CASA appears at all court proceedings regarding the child and monitors all court orders, ensuring compliance by all parties and bringing changes in circumstances affecting the child, that might require modifications of the court order, to the attention of the court.

All subgrants will be awarded to "associated beneficiaries" or organizational affiliates that will perform functions to implement the purposes of the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association. Subgrantees will range from \$20,000 to \$75,000 and will be for a two-year period. Applications must agree to comply with NCASAA standards for CASA/GAL programs.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 95-CI-CX-K001

PROJECT TITLE: SOUTHERN REGIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

GRANTEE: National Children's Advocacy Center

ADDRESS: 2204 Whiteburg Drive
Huntsville, AL 35801

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/95 TO 03/31/96

LATEST AWARD DATE: 02/21/95

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 125,000

GRANT CONTACT: Wilson, C.

GRANT MANAGER: Delany-Shaba

FY95 \$125,000 95CICXK001 FUND CODE CI SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 02/21/95

125,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

This award provides for the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC), the nation's first Children's Advocacy Center, to establish and develop the Regional Children's Advocacy Center one of four serving Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Texas, District of Columbia, Delaware, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Mississippi. The primary objectives of the SRCAC are to: (1) improve and enhance communities' response to child abuse; (2) develop training and technical assistance materials; and (3) help coordinate CACs nationally to promote national standards of practice and maximize efficient utilization of training and technical assistance resources.

The Regional Children's Advocacy Center Program seeks to increase the number of facility-based multi-disciplinary children's advocacy centers throughout the nation for purposes of providing coordinated, non-traumatizing services to children and families who are victims of abuse and neglect.

The National Children's Advocacy Center provides local abuse prevention programs, child-focused intervention and treatment services for sexually abused and physically abused children and their non-offending family members. The goals are to prevent child abuse through increased education, reduce the revictimization of abused children through intervention, assessment, and evidence-gathering in a child-friendly setting, to offer state-of-the-art treatment by expert mental professionals; and provide assistance to professionals in other communities wishing to improve their skills and establish a Children's Advocacy Centers.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 95-CI-CX-K002

PROJECT TITLE: WESTERN REGIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

GRANTEE: Pueblo Child Advocacy Center

ADDRESS: 301 West 13th Street
Pueblo, CO 81003

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/95 TO 04/30/96

LATEST AWARD DATE: 02/22/95

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 125,000

GRANT CONTACT: Cain, T.

GRANT MANAGER: Delany-Shaba

FY95 5125,000 95CICXK002 FUND CODE CI SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 02/22/95

125,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

This award provides for the development of the Western Regional Children's Advocacy Center by the Pueblo Child Advocacy Center. This grantee will assist communities in the western states, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, and California, with training and T.A. in support of CAC disciplinary team response to victims of child abuse, their non-offending family members and organization development.

The Pueblo Child Advocacy Center, in partnership with the Community Resource Center, will bring complementary strengths and increased organizational capacity to the program, with the Pueblo Child Advocacy Center providing administrative oversight and knowledge regarding the multi-disciplinary approach to child abuse, and the Community Resource Center contributing fiscal management and overall nonprofit training and expertise.

Pueblo Child Advocacy Center proposes to increase the long-term viability of child advocacy centers in the Western Region by building and strengthening the organizational infrastructures; creating networks linking local CAC's on local, state, and regional levels; constructing replicable training models, methods, and materials based on national standards; and coordinating with the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers in the development of comprehensive strategies for multi-disciplinary, facility-based approach to child abuse.

BUREAU: OJUDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 95-CI-CX-K003

PROJECT TITLE: Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Centers

GRANTEE: Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.

ADDRESS: 4000 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/95 TO 07/31/96

LATEST AWARD DATE: 02/22/95

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 124,853

GRANT CONTACT: Kirchner, C.

GRANT MANAGER: Delany-Shaba

FY95 5124,853 95CICKK003 FUND CODE CI SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 02/22/95

124,853

PROJECT SUMMARY

This award provides for the establishment of the Regional Children's Advocacy Center development to promote multi-disciplinary models and coordinate training and technical assistance resources regionally. This grantee will assist communities in the Northeast region states Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey with program start-up, and will strengthen existing centers by supporting their passage through developmental stages.

This project is intended to foster and encourage the development of a collaborative multi-agency approach to the prevention, investigation and treatment of sexual abuse of children. The mission of this project, then, is to protect child and adolescent victims of sexual abuse; to make sure the children receive comprehensive and sensitive treatment. Working with the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers and three other Regional Children's Centers, they will develop and coordinate implementation of national standards of practice, as well as national models for providing training and technical assistance to CAC's. Philadelphia Children's Advocacy Center proposes strategies that will increase the likelihood of accomplishing these objectives.

The project will be monitored through a review of narrative progress and financial status reports, site visit, and attendance at one of the working group meetings.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 95-CI-CX-K004

PROJECT TITLE: MIDWEST REGIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

GRANTEE: La Rabida Childrens Hospital and Research Center

ADDRESS: East 65th at Lake Michigan
Chicago, IL 60649

GRANT PERIOD: 01/01/95 TO 05/31/96

LATEST AWARD DATE: 02/22/95

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 124,914

GRANT CONTACT: HOCHSTADT, N.

GRANT MANAGER: Delany-Shaba

FY95 5124,914 95CICKX004 FUND CODE CI SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 02/22/95

124,914

PROJECT SUMMARY

This award provides for the establishment of the Mid West Regional Children's Advocacy Center to promote the development of multi-disciplinary team models and coordinate training and technical assistance resources regionally. The Chicago Child Abuse Resource Center of LaRabida proposes several objectives that divide into two broad areas: development of multi-disciplinary team models and coordination of training and technical assistance resources regionally. Working with an organizational developmental model, the Project will develop multi-disciplinary teams to: Work from a framework which identifies the developmental needs of communities, to assist communities to create multi-disciplinary approaches to child abuse. Specifically with respect to the development of comprehensive free standing Children's Advocacy Centers, they will assist CACs with the tasks and activities which correspond to each developmental stage. Adapt the CAC model, developed primarily for sex abuse investigations and cases, to the broader area of child abuse and neglect. Enhance coordination among community agencies and professions involved in the intervention, prevention, prosecution and investigation systems that respond to child abuse cases. Enhance skills of volunteers and professionals staffing Children's Advocacy Centers. Provide support for non-offending family members of child victims. The area of impact is the midwest region of the United States: Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Kansas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota and Nebraska.

11/08/96 17:45

202 514 6382

OJJDP

0023

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 95-CI-FX-K005

PROJECT TITLE: National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers: The Continuation of a Coordinated Approach to Training, TA & N

GRANTEE: National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc.

ADDRESS: 1319 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20004

GRANT PERIOD: 07/15/95 TO 09/15/96

LATEST AWARD DATE: 08/30/96

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 1,000,000

GRANT CONTACT: Chandler, N.

GRANT MANAGER: Delany-Shaba

FY95	5500,000	95CIFXK005	FUND CODE CI	SUPPLEMENT: 00	ACTION DATE: 07/21/95
FY96	5500,000	95CIFXK005	FUND CODE CI	SUPPLEMENT: 01	ACTION DATE: 08/30/96

1,000,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

The purpose of this award is to improve the response of local communities to child abuse and neglect. The grantee will do that by increasing community awareness of the Children's Advocacy Center model nationwide and providing training and technical assistance to jurisdictions interested in developing or strengthening CACs. The award will also help strengthen the National Network's capacity to conduct outreach services and strengthen coordination between the Network and the Regional Children's Advocacy Centers. Objectives focus on program services and growth; training and technical assistance; governance; and data collection and evaluation.

BUREAU: OJJDP-OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUST & DEL PREV

PROGRAM AREA: CHILD ABUSE

PROJECT NUMBER: 95-CI-FX-K006

PROJECT TITLE: National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers: A National Grants Administration Project

GRANTEE: National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc.

ADDRESS: 1319 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20004

GRANT PERIOD: 10/01/95 TO 03/31/97

LATEST AWARD DATE: 09/19/95

AMOUNT OF MONEY: 2,000,000

GRANT CONTACT: Chandler, N.

GRANT MANAGER: Delany-Shaba

FY95 \$2,000,000 95CIFXK006 FUND CODE CI SUPPLEMENT: 00 ACTION DATE: 09/19/95

2,000,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

The purpose of this award is to improve the response of local communities to child abuse and neglect by providing grant funds to local children's advocacy centers to support program development, staffing, technical assistance and training. This grant will also enable the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers to provide training and technical assistance to jurisdictions interested in developing or enhancing multidisciplinary approaches to abuse and neglect.

**POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF WELFARE REFORM SSI CHANGES ON
THE TITLE IV-E FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

THE LINK BETWEEN TITLE IV-E AND SSI:

A child who is eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is eligible for title IV-E adoption assistance if the child meets all of the special needs criteria at the initiation of the adoption proceedings. The special needs criteria are:

1) the child cannot or should not be returned home; 2) there exists a specific factor or condition because of which it is reasonable to conclude that the child cannot be placed for adoption without providing title IV-E adoption assistance; and, 3) except where it would be against the best interests of the child, a reasonable, but unsuccessful, effort has been made to place the child without title IV-E adoption assistance.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF NEW SSI ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Fewer special needs children will be eligible for the title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.

The change in definition for "childhood disability" under the SSI Program instituted under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act is more restrictive than the current definition. For example, some children with emotional and behavioral disorders may no longer be eligible for SSI based on the new definition of childhood disability. Therefore, title IV-E adoption assistance subsidy will not be available for some special needs children who were eligible for this program based on their SSI eligibility. The more restrictive SSI criteria will apply both to future SSI eligibility determinations, as well as to redeterminations of eligibility for children currently receiving SSI.

- Without an SSI or title IV-E adoption assistance subsidy, it may be more difficult to find adoptive placements for special needs children, because potential adoptive families may lack the resources to care for them.

- There may be an increase in the number of disabled children and families who enter the child welfare system.

Some families will lose SSI eligibility due to the more restrictive SSI eligibility criteria, which will increase financial pressures on families. Financial pressures can compound the stress which the family may already experience, potentially resulting in a need for child welfare services, including out-of-home placements.

- Because some children will lose SSI eligibility, States may begin to claim title IV-E foster care and adoption assistance reimbursement for children in foster or adoptive placements, who were previously supported by SSI.

November 7, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR The Secretary of Health and Human Services
The Secretary of the Treasury
The Secretary of Labor
The Secretary of Commerce
The Director of The Office of Personnel Management

SUBJECT: Steps to increase adoptions and other permanent placements for waiting children and Improve the Child Welfare System

~~Today, There are over 450,000 children in the our nation's foster care system. Eight out of ten have special needs -- they are disabled, older, have siblings who also need to be adopted, or are minorities. The great majority of these children will go home, but for over 65,000 of them, returning home is not an option. These are children who will need another loving, permanent home. More than seven out of ten have special needs -- they are disabled, older, have siblings or are minorities. The average child~~ Many of these children may wait as long as two years to be placed, and minority children may wait twice as long.

~~Loving adults are eager to offer permanent homes to many of these children. However, families face often significant obstacles, including complex regulations, prohibitive costs and outdated assumptions.~~

I am committed to giving these waiting children what every child in America deserves -- loving parents and a healthy, stable home. I believe we should set three goals. First, we should reduce the backlog of children who are legally free to be adopted and waiting in the foster care system, by working with states to double the number of these children who are adopted or permanently placed. ~~Second, we should reduce interminable unnecessary delays by working to find appropriate permanent homes for waiting children within one year of entering the child welfare system.~~ Second, we should reduce to one year the time necessary to find permanent homes for children with a goal of adoption. And third, we should increase public awareness about the benefits of adoption.

Today, therefore, I am directing the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Treasury, Labor and Commerce and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to take the following actions to meet these three goals.

1. **Double the number of children in foster care adopted or permanently placed by the year 2002**

In 1994 (the most recent year for which data are available), approximately 20,000 children were adopted and approximately 8,000 went into legal guardianship. ~~There are about 20,000 children in the nation's foster care system who cannot return safely to their homes, and who need~~

~~permanent placement with new families and who are legally free to be adopted. We should will work with states so to assure that in the year 2002, 56,000 children are adopted or permanently placed from out of the public child welfare system in the year 2002.~~

Within sixty days, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will consult with states and our other partners, and will report to me on actions to that should be taken to double the number of children in foster care who are adopted or permanently placed. This report should include, but should not be limited to, recommendations in the following areas:

- (1) Plans to work with states on developing and reaching state specific numerical targets toward meeting the national goal. Plans may should include technical assistance, initiatives to involve community leaders, parents, the business and faith communities, and use of the national resource centers to make information on best practices available to states. The details of the program to provide technical assistance should be included in my budget submission to Congress this coming February.
- (2) Proposals to provide a financial per child bonus to states for each child adopted from the child welfare system. The details of this program should be included in my budget submission to Congress this coming February.
- (3) Compilation and publication of an annual state-by-state report on success in meeting the numerical targets.
- (4) Recognition of successful states by the White House.

2. Reduce to one year the time necessary to find a permanent home for the average child in foster care children with a goal of adoption ^{adoptive} _{by year 2002}

Want to deal only w/ 65,000 w/ goal of adoption
shouldn't be realistic w/out other actions
→ Concern that you're sending a signal that family is not okay

~~Current federal laws and regulations have played a role in delaying appropriate permanent placements. While the Federal law requires that reasonable efforts be made to prevent placement in foster care and to reunify families, there is no comparable requirement to make reasonable efforts to secure a permanent place for a child if a decision is made that when the child cannot return home. The law should emphasize the importance of planning for permanency -- both adoption, and alternatives such as guardianship or kinship care. Barriers keeping children needlessly in foster care should be removed. Affirmative action must be taken to secure permanency and shorten unnecessarily long foster care stays.~~

one year to decide -- one year after that

Within sixty days, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, will consult with states and our other partners and will report to me on actions to be taken proposed changes in federal law and regulation needed to accomplish the goal of more rapid movement to permanency for children in foster care. This report should include, but should not be limited to, recommendations that will in the following areas:

- (1) — Legislative changes necessary to:

- a. Shorten the period between a child's placement in foster care and his or her first dispositional hearing ~~from the current 18 months to 12 months.~~
 - b. ~~Clarify the purposes of Change~~ "dispositional hearings" to "permanency planning hearings" ~~to clarify the purpose of the hearing and to so that they~~ include as options referrals for termination of parental rights, ~~and removing obstacles to~~ adoption or referrals to legal guardianship or other permanent placements.
 - c. ~~Require states to make "diligent efforts" to secure permanency through adoption or guardianship, after a decision has been made that the child cannot be returned home. Encourage states to give appropriate weight to permanency planning by establishing a standard for securing permanency through adoption or guardianship after a decision has been made that the child cannot be returned home; and by exploring regulatory changes.~~
 - d. Provide states with funding to ~~identify barriers~~ expedite movement toward to permanency, and to fund ~~solutions and~~ targeted efforts to place children who have been in foster care a particularly long time. The details of this program should be included in my budget submission to Congress this coming February.
 - e. Encourage the ~~pursuit study and evaluation of~~ alternative permanency arrangements such as guardianship.
- (2) ~~Regulatory changes necessary to redefine the reasonable efforts standard to ensure that permanency planning is accorded equal weight in the efforts by the child welfare system on a child's behalf~~ (Jen -- this one is now folded into "c" above).

3. Increase public awareness about the benefits of adoption

This month, I signed a proclamation designating November as National Adoption Month -- a time to increase awareness about the tens of thousands of children waiting for families and to encourage all Americans to consider the rewards and responsibilities of adoption. However, adoption must be a national concern throughout the year. Therefore, I direct:

- (1) The Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and lead a public awareness effort, including use of public service announcements, print materials and the Internet;
- (2) The Secretaries of Health and Human Services and the Treasury to develop and disseminate information about adoption tax benefits and other adoption benefits;
- (3) The Secretaries of Labor and Commerce to identify and recognize companies in the private sector with model policies to encourage and ease adoption among

employees; and

- (4) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management to direct all Federal agencies to provide information on adoption benefits available through the tax system and family leave provisions, and provide support to Federal employees who may consider adoption.

TO: Distribution
FROM: Jennifer Klein *J.K.*
Nicole Rabner
DATE: 10/18/96
RE: Materials for Monday Meeting on Adoption

Attached please find materials for Monday's meeting on adoption which will be held in Room 100 at 5:00 p.m. The first document is a short description of the goals and proposals that we are planning to announce. The second is the Department of Health and Human Services' drafts of the Presidential Memorandum and of a document describing the initiatives. Monday's meeting will be an opportunity to discuss our questions and concerns about these drafts.

Adoption Initiative / October 21, 1996

		Phone	Fax
MAC REED	OMB/OGC	395-3563	395-7294
Model. w/ Nass	HHS/OGC	690-8005	690-7320
JOHN CALLAHAN	ASMB/HHS	690-6396	690-5405
Wendy Jackson	ASPE/HHS	401-6127	690-6562
Ann Rosewater	ASPE/HHS	690-7409	690-6562
C. Williams	CB/ACyF	205-8618	260-9345
Dan Lewis	CB/ACyF	205-8618	260-9345
Bruce Reed	WH/DPC	456-6515	456-5557
Lyn Hagan	WH/DPC	456-5567	456-7028
Jeremiah Ben-Ami	WH/DPC	456-5584	
Mary Bourdette	HHS/ASRC	690-6311	690-8425
Ken Aszjel	OMB	395-4844	395-5730
Leslie C. L.	OMB	395-7763	395-0851
Barry White	OMB	395-7552	395-7752
Nicole Rabner	OFL	456-6266	456-6244
Melissa Skolfield	HHS	690-7850	690-5673
Jennifer Klein	OFL	456-2544	456-2818

To: Jeremy Ben-Ami
Jennifer Klein
Fr: Lyn Hogan
Re: Subsidized Guardianship

Date: October 18, 1996

This memo proposes subsidized guardianship as a permanency option to consider during Monday's adoption meeting. Subsidized guardianship could well provide a permanent option for as large or greater a portion of the caseload as adoption.

Background

All across the country, child welfare agencies are facing a crisis in the foster care system. Caseloads have been exploding in recent years, while the number of potential caregivers has decreased. Too many children are staying in foster care too long, delaying permanent planning and driving up program and administrative costs for the state and Federal governments.

Because of the increasing foster care caseloads and declining number of traditional foster care providers, states have been relying on informal kinship care to meet their ongoing placement needs. Many of the children in both kin and non-kin placements have no hope of retaining a permanent home and will remain in the foster care system until they age-out. (Kinship care providers do not have the legal standing that a foster parent or guardian does nor are they eligible for cash or in-kind benefits, and cannot give consent for medical care or enroll a child in school.)

Currently, Federal law offers two permanency options: family reunification and adoption. For children in which reunification and adoption are not possible, permanency, as traditionally defined, cannot occur.

With the large number of children in informal arrangements and aging out of care without a permanent situation, it is all the more important to examine new and creative alternatives for this population of children.

Subsidized Guardianship

Subsidized guardianship is one such new permanency planning option. Subsidized guardianship allows a child's foster care case to be closed while still making financial and other services available to the family. Subsidized guardianship is often used to make a kinship care placement permanent, eliminating the need for ongoing supervision.

Currently, 10 states have various forms of subsidized guardianship as an alternative permanency option¹, though at their own expense. Federal law does not permit IV-E funds to be transferred to a guardian, except through waivers from Federal law. Recently HHS approved two child welfare waivers to allow Illinois and Delaware to implement Federally subsidized guardianship -- the only two waivers of their kind in the nation.

Change Needed In Law

To allow guardianship as a permanent option under title IV-E, the following change in Federal law would be necessary.

The Federal government would have to amend Part E, Federal Payments For Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, to parallel the foster care and adoption sections to allow federal matching funds for guardianship maintenance payments.

This change in law would allow federal matching funds to states for eligible children placed in permanent guardianship situations. In other words, all or a portion of title IV-E maintenance funds would follow a child into a guardianship situation, thereby closing a child's foster care case and creating a permanent situation for that child.

Costs

At minimum, subsidized guardianship is cost-neutral. However, it is more likely that savings will result. While a portion, or all, of the IV-E foster care maintenance payment would transfer to the guardian, the foster care administrative and program costs would no longer be applicable.

As part of its child welfare waiver application, Illinois conducted a cost-benefit analysis of subsidized guardianship. Illinois's proposal estimates an accumulated savings of \$22,000,000 over a five year period. The saving comes from reduction of administrative and program costs.

Further, HHS estimated average monthly savings for subsidized guardianship at \$508.00 a month, or \$6,096 a year. HHS estimates that if only 4 percent of the current IV-E foster care caseload moved into guardianship status, annual savings would reach \$63.4 million. The percentage of those entering subsidized guardianship would likely be well above 4 percent.

¹States with non-federally subsidized guardianship proposals include Alaska, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Nebraska, South Dakota, Washington, California, Colorado, Illinois and New Mexico. Illinois and Delaware have the only two existing federally subsidized programs.

Questions and Concerns

In adapting such a proposal, several questions would have to be answered that could affect cost.

--Would any funds be available for administration and planning?

--How would a state determine a child's eligibility for guardianship status? (Several states have minimum age requirements for children going into guardianship status since younger children are more likely to be adopted than older children.)

--How long must a child remain in foster care before becoming eligible for guardianship? (States have set minimum foster care stays that vary from 6 months to 18 months.)

--What eligibility requirements must a guardian meet?

--How would a state design its guardianship program to ensure that guardianship is as permanent as possible? (Guardianship is not as permanent as adoption because the birth parents' rights are not terminated.)

*Jennifer Klein***INTERAGENCY ADVISORY GROUP**

UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20415

Secretariat
1900 E St., NW
(202) 632-6366

NOV 14 1989

Subject: The President's Adoption Initiative

From: *Allen D. Heuerman*
Allen D. Heuerman, Assistant Director
for Employee and Labor Relations

To: Directors of Personnel

The President has proclaimed Thanksgiving Week, November 19-25, to be National Adoption Week. This was preceded by his issuing on July 24, 1989, a memorandum to heads of Federal agencies urging them to promote adoption awareness among Federal employees and assist employees who have adopted or want to adopt children. The memorandum tasked the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Health and Human Services to work with agencies in implementing ideas for supporting the adoption plans and needs of Federal employees.

In support of the President's message, OPM Director Newman recently issued FPM Bulletin 792-46, entitled "Implementing the President's Adoption Initiative." The bulletin provides information and guidance for agencies in their efforts to carry out the President's initiative, such as ways in which existing personnel management programs and flexibilities can support Federal employees who are considering adopting or who have adopted children; suggested agency activities to promote adoption awareness among Federal employees; and lists of organizations for agencies to contact if they would like to obtain additional information and materials on adoption. A copy of the bulletin is attached for your information and use.

On October 17 OPM and HHS co-sponsored a half-day seminar entitled "Implementing the President's Initiative on Adoption." The seminar featured discussions of adoption procedures, resources available in the area of adoption, personnel programs and flexibilities which can support employees' adoption plans, and activities agencies could sponsor for National Adoption Week. Several agency officials unable to attend the seminar have since contacted OPM requesting information on adoption resources and ideas for promoting National Adoption Week. As a service to agencies unable to attend we are attaching a list of materials distributed at the seminar and information on how to obtain them. We are also attaching a sample statement which HHS has prepared for agencies to consider using in informing their employees about National Adoption Week.

OPM is establishing a clearinghouse of Federal agency efforts in the area of adoption as a way of facilitating the sharing of ideas and information among agencies on adoption initiatives. We urge agencies who develop materials on adoption to send them to the clearinghouse. We have already obtained sample letters and materials from some agencies which may be useful in planning for National Adoption Week. In addition, the clearinghouse has listings of area resources on adoption, including experts from local social service and adoption agencies who are available to speak during National Adoption Week. You may contact Mary Giallorenzi at (FTS/202) 653-8551 to obtain materials from OPM's clearinghouse.

Attachments

Office of Personnel Management

FPM Bulletin 792-46

Federal Personnel Manual System**FPM Bulletin**

Bulletin No. 792-46

Washington, D. C. 20415

SUBJECT: Implementing the President's Adoption Initiative

October 25, 1989

Heads of Departments and Independent Establishments:

1. Introduction

In a memorandum to heads of Federal agencies issued on July 24, 1989 the President urged agencies to encourage and assist employees who have adopted or want to adopt children. The memorandum also tasked the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to work with agencies in implementing ideas for supporting the adoption plans and needs of Federal employees. The purpose of this Federal Personnel Manual bulletin, which was developed in consultation with HHS, is to assist agencies in carrying out the President's directive. It discusses ways in which existing personnel management programs and flexibilities can support Federal employees who are considering adopting or who have adopted children; explains the role of agency Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) in providing support to employees with dependent care needs; provides suggested agency activities to promote adoption awareness; and lists various resources on adoption.

Adopting a child can be a very rewarding experience. There are currently many children available for adoption, including children with "special needs" (that is, those who may be difficult to place with adoptive parents because of factors such as ethnic background, age, membership in a minority or sibling group, or the presence of a physical, mental, or emotional handicap). The Federal Government, as an employer, has the capacity to encourage and support its employees in adopting a child. This bulletin provides specific ideas for assisting the employee who is, or is considering becoming an adoptive parent.

2. Proposed Benefits for Adoptive Parents

As part of the President's initiative to support adoption, the Administration has proposed legislation entitled the "Federal Employees' Special Needs Adoption Expenses Reimbursement Act of 1989." The proposed legislation focuses on the adoption of children with special needs and, if enacted, would establish a four year demonstration program under which Federal civilian employees would be reimbursed for certain expenses incurred in the adoption of such children. Under the proposal, employees would be reimbursed up to \$2,000 for a single adoption, and up to \$5,000 per year if the employee adopts several special needs children. The Administration is proposing that the Act take effect on January 1, 1990.

The Office of Personnel Management would be responsible for establishing regulations and policy guidelines governing the demonstration program, and for evaluating its effectiveness and reporting to the President and the Congress. OPM will provide further information and guidance to agencies on the demonstration program if it is enacted into law.

Inquiries: Employee Health Services Branch, Personnel Systems and Oversight Group
(FTS/202) 632-5558

Code: 792, Federal Employees Health and Counseling Programs

Distribution: Basic FPM

Bulletin Expires: October 20, 1990

FPM Bulletin 792-46 (2)

3. Existing Personnel Programs

There are various personnel programs and policies in place which can support an employee who is considering adopting or who has adopted a child. OPM encourages agencies to use these programs and policies in a compassionate and flexible manner.

a. Employee Insurance and Survivor Benefits

(1) Health Insurance Program

Adopted children are considered to be "eligible family members" who can be included as part of a family insurance plan under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (5 CFR 890.302(b)). Foster children can also be covered if they live with the employee in a regular parent-child relationship and are expected to be raised to adulthood by the employee (FPM Supplement 890-1). Of particular value to adoptive parents, especially those who adopt older children or children with medical problems, is that Federal health benefits plans are prohibited from denying benefits solely because of a pre-existing physical or mental condition and there is no waiting period for coverage to begin (5 CFR 890.201(b)).

The regulations also provide that the adoption of a child allows a Federal employee to change from self only to family enrollment (5 CFR 890.301(e)). Children who are incapable of self support because of a disability incurred before age 22 may continue to be covered under the Health Insurance Program (5 CFR 890.302(d)). Finally, employees granted extended leave without pay may retain their health benefits coverage during their period of leave for up to 1 year (5 CFR 890.303(e)). This may be an important consideration for an employee who takes several months off to care for an adopted child.

(2) Life Insurance Program

Through the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance Program, an employee may insure an adopted child (but not a foster child) (5 CFR 873.702(a)). Children who are incapable of self support because of a disability incurred before age 22 may continue to be covered under the Life Insurance Program (5 CFR 873.703). An adopted child, just as a biological child, is an automatic beneficiary if there is no designated beneficiary or surviving spouse (5 CFR 870.901(a)(1)). Life insurance coverage also continues during periods of leave without pay of up to 1 year (5 CFR 870.501(c)).

(3) Retirement Program (Survivor Benefits)

Unmarried dependent adopted children (but not foster children) are also eligible for survivor benefits from the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) under the same circumstances as biological children until they reach age 18 (5 U.S.C. 8341(a) and 8441(4)). Benefits may continue until age 22 if they are full time students. Unmarried children regardless of age who are incapable of self support due to a mental or physical disability incurred before age 18 may continue to be eligible for survivor benefits as children.

b. Federal Government Leave Program

(1) Leave for Parental and Family Responsibilities

OPM has issued guidance specifically dealing with leave for adoption and foster care. (See FPM Chapter 630, Subchapter 13, Section 13-6.) The guidance recognizes that employees who take on the responsibility of adopting a "special needs" child may need more support and encouragement than parents of children

who are not disadvantaged. It notes that agencies should be flexible and compassionate in granting leave for extended periods to care for a newly adopted child.

(2) Leave Transfer

Under the leave transfer program, employees can voluntarily donate annual leave to employees who need such leave because of serious medical emergencies affecting themselves or members of their families. (See interim regulations issued in the Federal Register on January 31, 1989 (54 Fed Reg 4749), and April 28, 1989 (54 Fed Reg 18267), and FPM Letter 630-33, October 4, 1989.) These programs can help ease the emotional and financial burdens generated by medical emergencies of employees or their dependents. As such they could be very helpful to adoptive and foster parents.

c. Agency Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs)

Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) are ideally suited for the role of educating and assisting employees in the area of adoption. Most agencies have broad scope EAPs which include educational programs and assistance in a variety of areas, including family concerns. These "broad brush" EAPs provide short-term counseling and referrals to local community resources programs, such as social service agencies. EAPs can also perform a wide range of other activities, such as coordinating support groups for employees who are foster or adoptive parents, single parents or blended families; sponsoring educational programs; and conducting other activities suggested in attachment 2. At a minimum, agencies should ensure that their EAPs are aware of the resources listed in attachment 3 and of pertinent resources in their local communities. FPM Chapter 792, Subchapter 6 contains further guidance on Employee Assistance Programs.

d. Dependent Care Programs

Federal agencies provide various dependent care services and resources which could be beneficial to adoptive or foster parents as they are to parents generally. FPM Bulletin 792-43, issued on June 28, 1988, provides further information regarding dependent care services.

e. Work Scheduling Flexibilities

(1) Part-time Employment and Job Sharing

Agencies are encouraged to give strong consideration to providing part-time or job-sharing opportunities to employees who request them in connection with family responsibilities, including adoption or foster care of a child. FPM Bulletin 340-11, issued on October 12, 1988, points out that the Federal government has been a leader in developing alternatives to full-time employment, and urges agencies to take a fresh look at the part-time employment program. The guidance notes that the majority of career employees now working on part-time schedules are women who want extra time to make caring for their families easier. FPM Chapter 340 contains considerable guidance for agencies about the benefits to both the employee and the agency of part-time and job sharing arrangements.

(2) Flexible and Compressed Work Schedules

Agencies have authority to establish flexible and compressed work schedules (5 U.S.C. §§ 6122 and 6127). Agencies may authorize a variety of working arrangements under the program for flexible and compressed work schedules. For example, using flexitime, an adoptive or foster parent could work an early shift in order to be home when the child returns from school in the afternoon. Or, using a compressed work schedule, an employee could work four 10-hour days per week in order to be home with the child 3 full days each week. Agencies may

FPM Bulletin 792-46 (4)

also allow employees to participate in combined flexible/compressed schedules to meet the individual needs of the employee. For further guidance on using flexible and compressed work schedules see FPM Supplement 990-2, appendix C of Book 610, and Book 620.

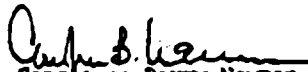
f. Flexible Workplace Project

OPM is co-sponsoring a pilot project to explore the feasibility and utility of flexible workplace arrangements in the Federal government. Agencies participating in the project will permit groups of employees to work at home (or at other specified locations) for part of the workweek. Work at home could be of assistance to adoptive parents.

4. Sharing Information About Adoption Activities

OPM encourages agencies to share information and ideas on implementing the Administration's adoption initiative. OPM will act as a clearinghouse for Federal agency efforts in this area. Contact the Employee Health Services Branch at (FTS/202) 632-5558 if your agency develops a policy on adoption that you would be willing to share with other agencies or if you have additional activities to suggest.

A copy of the President's July 24, 1989 Memorandum for Heads of Departments and Agencies, suggested agency initiatives to promote adoption awareness among Federal employees, and a list of organizations which can provide information and resources on adoption are included in the attachments to the bulletin. Also attached are two fact sheets on adoption: "Adoption — Where Do I Start" and "Subsidized Adoption: A Source of Help for Children with Special Needs and Their Families."


Constance Berry Newman
Director

Attachments

Attachment 1 to FPM Bulletin 792-46

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 24, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Administration Support for the Adoption Option

The foundation of our nation is the American family, protector of our most valuable yet vulnerable resource -- our children. Sadly, thousands of American children do not have a family to call their own. They are children who may have been abandoned, neglected or abused, who have seen their childhood unfairly snatched away. We can give them back their childhood, simply by finding them a permanent adoptive family. This, I believe, is an effort worthy of our greatest commitment.

Everyone wins in adoption. It is time for the leaders of the Federal workforce to ensure that our government is pro-adoption. Adoption works -- for children who need homes, for people hoping to become parents, and for women facing a crisis pregnancy.

As the leaders of the Federal civilian and military labor force, we have the opportunity to positively affect the lives of Federal employees and to provide leadership for our entire nation. I am directing you and your staff to consider ways to provide such leadership to advance the adoption alternative.

Adoption can help to address some of our most pressing issues: teenage pregnancy, foster care, infertility, and welfare dependency. Most importantly, adoption provides a home and love to children who may have neither.

Consider just a few facts:

- o An estimated 15 percent of American couples of reproductive age are infertile.
- o About 60,000 children are adopted every year in this country. Of these, 10,000 come from foreign countries.
- o Right now, nearly 30,000 American children are legally available for adoption. Some of them are school-age, some are physically or emotionally handicapped, some are members of sibling groups that need to be placed in the same home, and some are minority children.
- o Each year nearly 25,000 American babies are given life and the chance to be loved when their mothers choose adoption over abortion or unwanted parenthood, yet the opportunity to consider adoption is often denied to pregnant women. I am

Attachment 1 to FPM Bulletin 792-46 (2)

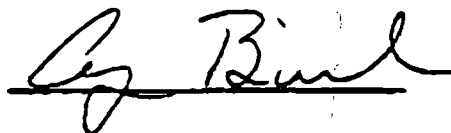
told that as much as 40 percent of pregnancy counseling does not even mention adoption.

I have instructed my Domestic Policy Council to develop a Presidential adoption initiative, and that process is well under way. To complement this effort, I am asking you to develop methods for supporting the adoption plans and needs of your employees and for promoting adoption among your workforce. Here are just a few ideas:

- o Use agency resources for employees who are considering adopting, who have adopted children, or who have a family member facing a crisis pregnancy. Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) may be the most appropriate resource.
- o Begin planning now for agency-wide celebration and observance of National Adoption Week (Thanksgiving Week). Your agency's focus could be upon local children in need of adoptive homes.
- o Ensure that all employee supervisors are as flexible as possible regarding the adoption-related leave needs of employees. This might include incremental (hourly) leave needed to meet with adoption agency personnel or longer periods of leave to care for a newly adopted child.
- o Feature adoption articles in agency newsletters. These might include stories about employees who have adopted special needs children, infants, or children from other countries, as well as a regular column picturing a local waiting child.

I have instructed both the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Personnel Management to work with you in implementing these and other ideas.

A commitment to adoption is one we can all share. With just a small effort, we can help our own employees and, just as importantly, we can provide national leadership in support of adoption. Finding loving homes for waiting children is reward enough.



Attachment 2 to FPM Bulletin 792-46

Suggested Agency Initiatives to Promote Adoption Awareness

There are a variety of activities that agencies can undertake to promote adoption awareness among their employees. Agencies may wish to consider the following ideas:

1. Publicize agency policies on the existing personnel programs and management flexibilities (such as those discussed in paragraph 3 of the bulletin) which provide support to an employee who is an adoptive or foster parent or is in the process of adopting a child (perhaps issued as an employee letter or memorandum from top management).
2. Use agency Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs), discussed in paragraph 3(c) of the bulletin, to provide support groups, counseling and referral for employees who are considering adoption, are in the process of adopting, or have adopted a child, as well as to sponsor or participate in the educational activities suggested below.
3. Participate actively in "National Adoption Week," November 19-25, 1989, perhaps focusing on local children needing homes.
4. Sponsor or participate in adoption promotion/awareness campaigns on a local level.
5. Feature articles in agency newsletters and bulletins about such topics as agency activities to promote adoption, special needs children available for adoption, and personal experiences of employees who have adopted a child or care for foster children.
6. Hold agency-sponsored seminars, workshops, or lunchtime awareness programs, featuring experts on adoption from the community, such as representatives from social service agencies, and employees who can speak about their personal experiences in adopting special needs children.
7. Distribute articles, pamphlets and brochures to all agency employees; include materials in new employee orientation packages; place materials in employee lounges, break areas, and health unit waiting rooms; print messages on pay slips pointing out the number of children who need homes and asking the employee to consider helping; display posters which encourage adoption of special needs children and photographs of special needs children available for adoption (obtained from local community social service agencies) with adoption information sources.
8. Solicit the involvement and support of employee unions to co-sponsor educational activities and include articles in union newsletters.
9. Establish a resource center within the agency containing information on adoption and foster care, such as reports, pamphlets, brochures, videos, lists of local contacts for foster care and adoption.
10. Assemble lists of employees who are willing to volunteer to assist adoptive parents. The lists could include employees who are adoptive parents themselves as well as those who have professional qualifications, including attorneys, educators, and counselors. The assistance rendered by these volunteers could include practical advice, referral to social and educational services, legal assistance, and conducting support groups.

Resources

a. Federal Government Organizations

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(1) The Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children, Youth and Families
The Children's Bureau
330 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20201
(FTS/202) 245-0618</p> | <p>Oversees, in addition to a number of Federal child welfare programs, the Federal foster care program and the Adoption Opportunities Act, which funds a number of initiatives to find homes for waiting children.</p> |
|---|---|

National Adoption Information Clearinghouse
1400 Eye Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 842-1919

Provides easily accessible information on all aspects of adoption. Publishes fact sheets on adoption issues; provides lists of adoption agencies, expert speakers, and other resources available in each state; maintains a computerized information database containing abstracts of over 1400 articles on adoption; and provides annotated lists of films and videotapes on adoption.

- (2) The U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Employee Health Services Branch
Office of Employee and Labor Relations
1900 E Street, NW Room 7412
Washington, DC 20415
(FTS/202) 632-5558

Responsible for policy guidance and technical assistance for Federal employee health and assistance-related personnel issues, including dependent care and employee assistance programs.

b. National Organizations

- (1) The North American Council on Adoptable Children
P.O. Box 14808
Minneapolis, MN 55514
(612) 644-3036

Association of adoptive parent support groups involved in recruiting families for older, minority and handicapped children. Provides ongoing support for families who have adopted special needs children. Publications available.

- (2) National Adoption Center
1218 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(800) TO-ADOPT (outside Pennsylvania)
(215) 925-0200

Provides referrals to community agencies; registers approved families and waiting children with special needs; suggests matches of families and children to appropriate agencies; and provides information about special needs adoption.

- (3) The National Resource Center on Special Needs Adoption
P.O. Box 337
Chelsea, MI 48118
(313) 475-8693

Provides publications, training, and technical assistance on the adoption of special needs children.

Attachment 3 to FPM Bulletin 792-46 (2)

- (4) National Committee for Adoption
1930 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-1200

Organization of private adoption agencies and individuals interested in adoption. Accredits private agencies; monitors legal developments in the adoption field; gathers and disseminates statistics about adoption; counsels individuals and agencies about pregnancy, infertility and adoption; refers families to agencies; publishes a fact book on adoption; and provides posters on adoption.

- (5) Committee for Single Adoptive Parents
P.O. Box 15084
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Provides a handbook for single adoptive parents.

- (6) Adoptive Families of America
3307 Highway 100 North, Suite 203
Minneapolis, MN 55422
(612) 535-4829

An adoptive parent support organization, promoting domestic and intercountry adoption. Publishes a bimonthly magazine on adoption.

- (7) The CAP Book, Inc.
700 Exchange Street
Rochester, NY 14608
(716) 232-5110

A national photo listing service of children waiting to be adopted.



NATIONAL ADOPTION INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

ADOPTION -- WHERE DO I START?

Adopting a child can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. However, the adoption process can be emotionally trying, time-consuming, and frustrating. This article provides some basic information about adoption alternatives and the adoption process, in order to make the experience a little easier for you.

Adoption in the 1980's is very different from what it was when most of today's adults were growing up. Now, for instance, relatively few white babies are available for adoption in comparison with the number of families who want to adopt. However, there are many older, handicapped, minority, and foreign-born children who need adoptive families. Adoption agencies are seeking families or single adults who can love, care for and raise these children.

What kinds of children are available for adoption?

American Infants: Although there are more people who want to adopt white, American babies than there are babies available for adoption, some white infants are available, primarily through private agencies and independent adoptions. However, there are black infants available for adoption by black families, as most agencies prefer to place minority children with parents of the same ethnic background.

Children with Special Needs: Many children with "special needs" are available for adoption. These children may be older (grade school through teens), have physical, emotional, or mental handicaps, or be brothers and sisters who should be adopted together. Usually, these children are in the state foster care system. Both public and private agencies place special needs children. In addition, national, regional, and state adoption exchanges will assist in matching prospective parents with these children. The exchanges and agencies usually have photolists with pictures and descriptions of available children. In many cases, adoption subsidies are obtainable to assist the parents with the legal, medical, and living costs associated with caring for a child with special needs.

Intercountry Adoption: Children from other countries are available for adoption by American parents. Korea, Central and South America, India, and the Phillippines are the sources of most foreign-born children adopted by Americans.

There are strict immigration requirements for adopting these children, as well as substantial fees for the agency, transportation for the child, and legal and medical services. Many private agencies place children from foreign countries; it is important that you choose a licensed, knowledgeable organization, as the intercountry adoption process is lengthy and complex. You can check an agency's qualifications with your State Department of Social Services Adoption Specialist or with local adoptive parent groups.

As prospective parents, you should carefully consider the emotional and social implications of adopting a child of a different nationality. In this situation, you are adopting a culture as well as a child.

Attachment 4 to FPM Bulletin 792-46 (2)

Who can adopt?

The traditional eligibility requirements for adoptive parents have been changed to some extent, so the characteristics of today's adoptive parents can be quite different from those of the past. However, for many infant adoptions, agencies will only consider couples married at least one to three years, between the ages of 25 and 40, and with stable employment income. Some agencies require that the couple have no other children and be unable to bear children; some require that the adoptive mother not work outside the home for at least six months after the adoption.

For children with special needs, some black American infants, and some intercountry adoptions, agencies are willing to consider single applicants, those over age 40, and those with other children. The adoption of American Indian children by non-Indians is strictly limited by the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act. Agencies will discuss the various eligibility regulations and possibilities with you.

Steps in Agency Adoption

There are several steps you must complete for any type of adoption through an agency. In addition to the basic procedures described below, other procedures may be necessary, depending upon your particular needs and those of the child and the biological parents.

(1) *Select an Adoption Agency:* There are both public and private adoption agencies. A public agency is the local branch of your State social service agency; this agency can assist you or refer you to a private agency. Most public agencies handle only special needs adoptions — not infant or intercountry adoptions. Private agencies are supported by private funds and are licensed or approved by the state. They may be sectarian or non-sectarian. To obtain the names of some local agencies, look under "Social Services" or "Adoption Services" in the Yellow Pages or ask adoptive parents and other knowledgeable sources for their recommendations. The National Adoption Information Clearinghouse (NAIC) can also identify agencies in your area, or you can purchase the *American Adoption Directory* from the NAIC. Additional information sources are listed at the end of this article.

If you want to adopt an infant, you should register with as many agencies as possible, if the agencies will allow this. Because of long waiting lists, agencies may not always accept new applicants.

(2) *Complete the Application and Pre-Placement Investigation:* When you contact an agency you may be invited to attend an agency-sponsored group educational session in which interested applicants learn about the agency's procedures and available children, and receive the application forms. The agency will review your completed application to determine whether to accept you as a client; if accepted at a private agency you will probably have to pay a registration fee at that time. Then the pre-placement investigation, or "home study" can begin.

The home study is an evaluation of you as a prospective adoptive family and the physical and emotional environment into which the child would be placed. It is also a preparation for adoptive parenthood. It consists of a series of interviews with a social worker, including at least one interview in your home. During this process, applicants should, with the social worker's assistance, consider all aspects of adoptive parenthood and identify the type of child they wish to adopt. Some agencies use a group approach to the educational part of the adoption preparation process.

Many of the questions asked in the home study are personal, including questions about income, assets, health, and the stability of the marriage (if married) and/or family relationships. Physical

Attachment 4 to FPM Bulletin 792-46 (3)

exams to ensure that the prospective parents are healthy may also be required. A home study is usually completed in a few months, depending upon the agency's requirements and the number of other clients.

(3) Be Prepared to Wait: Adopting a child always requires a waiting period of some duration. If you want to adopt a white infant, you will probably have to wait at least one year from the time the home study is completed, and more frequently two to five years. Black applicants wishing to adopt black infants will have a shorter wait, probably less than six months. If you want to adopt a child with special needs, you can begin to review photolistsings immediately to identify appropriate children. Intercountry adoptions, on the other hand, may take a year or more. For any type of adoption, even after a child is found, you may have to wait weeks or months while final arrangements are made.

(4) Complete the Legal Procedures: After a child is placed with you, you must fulfill the legal requirements for adoption. Hiring an attorney may be necessary at this juncture, if you have not retained one already.

Usually a child lives with the adoptive family for at least six months before the adoption is finalized legally, although this post-placement interim varies according to State law and the conditions of the child and family. During this period, the agency will provide supportive services, and the social worker may visit frequently to ensure that the child is well cared for. After this period, the agency will submit a written recommendation of approval of the adoption to the court, and you or your attorney can then file with the court to complete the adoption.

For intercountry adoptions, the child should be legally adopted in both his/her country of origin and in a U.S. court. This usually requires retaining a lawyer in both locations. Also, be aware that the actual adoption procedure is just one of a series of legal processes required for intercountry adoption; you must also fulfill the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service's requirements.

Independent Adoptions

Adoptions can sometimes be arranged without an agency, either between a pregnant woman and the adoptive parents, or through an intermediary such as an attorney. This type of adoption is illegal in some states and is strictly limited in most. The adoptive parents usually pay the medical and legal expenses incurred by both parties in an independent adoption. In addition, a home study by a certified social worker is required in some states. Because there is a certain amount of risk inherent in this type of adoption and state laws vary, it is recommended that before considering this route you investigate the idea thoroughly with an attorney or the local public adoption agency.

Adoption Costs

The fees charged by adoption agencies will vary. Public agencies usually do not charge fees. Private agency fees for infant adoptions range from \$3,000 to over \$10,000 for domestic adoptions and from \$3,500 to over \$15,000 for intercountry adoptions. In addition to agency fees, you may have to pay legal, medical, and transportation fees. However, usually no fee or only a very moderate one is charged for adopting children with special needs.

How can I learn more about adoption?

Several good adoption handbooks are available in your public library or book store; some of these publications are listed below. Adoptive parent support groups can also be helpful. They are listed in the NAIC *American Adoption Directory*, along with other national organizations that can provide more information.

Attachment 4 to FPM Bulletin 792-46 (4)

Various organizations offer educational programs on adoption. Community colleges, "open" or "storefront" universities, adoption agencies, some churches and local YMCAs or YWCAs may offer such programs in your community. You can also call a local private or public adoption agency to find out about such programs or to obtain informative publications produced by the agency.

References and Resources

Bolles, Edmund Blair. *The Penguin Adoption Handbook*. New York: Viking Press (hardcover) or Penguin (paperback), 1984.

Canape, Charlene. *Adoption: Parenthood Without Pregnancy*. New York: Henry Holt, 1986.

Gilman, Lois. *The Adoption Resource Book*. New York: Harper and Row, 1987.

Marindin, Hope. *Handbook for Single Adoptive Parents*. Chevy Chase, MD: Committee for Single Adoptive Parents, 1987. (Available to single adopters only, for \$8; write to P.O. Box 15084, Chevy Chase, MD, 20815.)

Melina, Lois. *Raising Adopted Children: A Manual for Adoptive Parents*. New York: Harper and Row, 1986.

Plumez, Jacqueline Hornor. *Successful Adoption: A Guide to Finding a Child and Raising a Family*. New York: Harmony Books, 1987.

Resource Directories

Cole, Elizabeth. *National Adoption Directory*. Washington, D.C.: National Adoption Information Clearinghouse. (Contains lists of adoption agencies by state, parent support groups, adoption exchanges, and legal resources. To be published in March, 1989.)

Other Resources

The *Child Welfare League of America* is a national organization for child welfare advocacy, education, and agency membership. It publishes materials on adoption. The 1986-1987 CWLA *Directory of Member Agencies* lists all affiliated agencies, and costs \$14. Catalogs of publications and audiovisual materials are free. Write to the CWLA Publications Department, 440 First Street, NW, Suite 301, Washington, D.C., 20001.

The *National Adoption Center* refers families to agencies in their communities for home studies, registers approved families and waiting children with special needs, and suggests matches of families and children to appropriate agencies. It also provides information about special needs adoption. Call (800) TO-ADOPT outside Pennsylvania, (215) 925-0200 in Pennsylvania; or write to 1218 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19107.

The *National Committee for Adoption* is an organization of private adoption agencies and individuals interested in adoption. It accredits private agencies, monitors legal development in the adoption field, gathers and disseminates statistics about adoption and counsels individuals and agencies about pregnancy, infertility and adoption. Write to 1930 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20009, or call (202) 328-1200.

Attachment 4 to FPM Bulletin 792-46 (5)

The *National Resource Center on Special Needs Adoption* provides publications, training, and technical assistance to organizations and individuals on the adoption of special needs children. Write to P.O. Box 337, Chelsea, MI, 48118, or call (313) 475-8693.

The *North American Council on Adoptable Children* is an association for adoptive parent support groups nationwide. It also holds a national conference. It emphasizes waiting children in need of adoption. P.O. Box 14808, Minneapolis, MN, 55514, (612) 625-0330.

OURS, Inc. is an adoptive parents support organization, promoting domestic and intercountry adoption. 3307 Highway 110 North, #203, Minneapolis, MN, 55422. Membership is \$16 per year.



NATIONAL ADOPTION INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

SUBSIDIZED ADOPTION: A SOURCE OF HELP FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

In every State there are children with special needs waiting for adoptive families. In the past, most of these children would wait forever. The costs of care and services were major obstacles to parents who would otherwise adopt and love them. Adoption subsidies, also known as adoption assistance, remove the obstacles of the past. Financial help and services are now available for children with special needs and their adoptive parents.

There are two major sources of adoption assistance: the Federal title IV-E program under the Social Security Act and the States' programs which vary State by State. Each State's program is different and it is very important for families interested in obtaining adoption subsidies to contact their local department of social services to determine what is available in their State. The information presented below is divided under each question into sections on the Federal IV-E program and the State programs.

• What kind of financial help is available?

Federal IV-E Adoption Assistance Program

Under the Federal title IV-E adoption assistance program, payments to the parents of an eligible child are available for the ordinary and special needs of the child. Such payments are not designated for a specific purpose such as medical expenses, maintenance (i.e., living expenses), or special services. The funds may be used for any identifiable need of the child. The maximum payment may not exceed the amount that would have been paid for maintenance for that child if he were in a foster home.

A child for whom title IV-E adoption assistance is provided is automatically eligible for medical assistance under title XIX (Medicaid) and for social services under the title XX plan in each State, as though he were an AFDC recipient.

Payments can continue until the child reaches age 18, or until age 21 if the State determines continuation is warranted, and they continue in the event the family moves to another State.

Adopting parents do not have to meet any financial eligibility criteria in order to receive adoption assistance for the title IV-E eligible child. The parents may decide, however, not to receive money payments even though the child is eligible. That decision would not interfere with the child's eligibility for Medicaid or title XX services, or the parents' eligibility for reimbursement of non-recurring adoption services.

In order for a child to be eligible for title IV-E Adoption Assistance, he or she must have been eligible for AFDC or SSI programs under the Social Security Act before adoption.

State Adoption Subsidy Programs

State adoption subsidy programs provide assistance for children who are not eligible under the Federal IV-E program. Adoption subsidies take various forms in the different States, depending upon the child's needs and the State agency's program.

Attachment 5 to FPM Bulletin 792-46 (2)

Under the State-funded programs, there are generally three types of adoption subsidies:

- medical,
- maintenance, and
- special services

Medical subsidies cover some or all the costs related to a child's specific medical condition that are not covered by the family's health insurance, as well as associated therapy, rehabilitation, and special education. Some States provide medical assistance through Medicaid which also covers health care needs not covered by the adopting family's health insurance policy.

Maintenance or support subsidies are direct payments to the adopting family to help cover the child's living expenses.

Special service subsidies are usually one-time payments to cover a child's emergency or extraordinary need; less often, they are repeated payments for services not covered by the medical or maintenance subsidies. It is important to check with the State to determine what is an allowable cost.

Under both federal and State programs, adoptive parents of a child with special needs are eligible for a one-time payment of non-recurring adoption expenses incurred in connection with adoption. Such expenses include reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees, and other expenses directly related to the legal adoption of the child with special needs.

- How does the adopting family's financial status affect the subsidy?

Federal IV-E Program

Federal law does not require the financial status of the adoptive parents to be factor in determining the child's eligibility for adoption subsidy under title IV-E. However, State agencies take into account the parent's circumstances and the needs of the child when establishing the subsidy amount under the Federal program. The State agency and adopting parents enter into an adoption assistance agreement that specifies the amount of payment (if any) and other services available. The specific terms of the agreement may be readjusted with concurrence of the adopting parents, as the child's needs change, the State agency's foster care maintenance payments change, or the parents' circumstances change.

State Adoption Subsidy Programs

For State-funded subsidies, some States have income/means tests for prospective adoptive parents that determine how much a family may receive. The State agency reviews each child's and parent's situation at the time of the adoptive placement and usually on a yearly basis thereafter.

- What if the adopting family disagrees with a State agency's decision to change the type or amount of the child's subsidy?

Federal IV-E Program

Adoptive parents may appeal the agency's decision by using the State's fair hearing and appeal process. Generally this means that the family files an appeal through the head of the local agency to the State title IV-E agency. The local agency should be able to inform the family about steps in the State fair hearing process. The family may wish to be represented by an attorney in this process or seek the advice of advocacy organizations for children with special needs.

Attachment 5 to FPM Bulletin 792-46 (3)

Adoptive parents may also contact the Program Operations Division, U.S. Children's Bureau, Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, P.O. Box 1182, Washington, D.C. 20013 or (202) 755-7447 for advice on an appeal for the IV-E program.

State Adoption Subsidy Programs

States differ in their appeals processes for State adoption subsidies. Families should ask the local agency director about the existence of and steps in the State appeals process.

- Are there any federal tax benefits available for families who adopt a child eligible for adoption subsidies?

It is recommended that adoptive parents contact the IRS about tax exemptions and deductions for the child for whom they receive adoption assistance.

- Who are the children with special needs?

Each State agency has its own definition of "special needs" used to identify children eligible for adoption subsidies. Generally, the child's special needs relate to age (an older child); membership in a minority group; a medical condition (e.g., chronic illness); siblings (brothers and sisters who should not be separated); or handicaps (a child with a physical, emotional, or mental disability). Some children have more than one special need; all must be legally free for adoption. Most of the children have experienced unusual stresses; some have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. Each child needs a permanent, caring family who can help him or her feel accepted, valued and wanted.

- How does a family apply for an adoption subsidy?

When it is determined that the child is "a child with special needs", the possibility of an adoption subsidy is discussed with the prospective adoptive parents. Most children registered with agencies as having special needs have already been classified as eligible for subsidies. Once a petition for adoption has been filed, a final determination of the child's eligibility under title IV-E or the State program is made. The family applies for the subsidy to the State agency, through the local office. A determination is made and an adoption assistance agreement is signed that specifies the types of subsidy to be provided. This usually should be done before placement and must be done before finalization of the adoption. Each State has its own regulations for a State-only subsidy as well as the procedures to be followed for title IV-E adoption assistance.

- Can foster parents apply to adopt an eligible child?

Yes. A majority of special needs children for adoption subsidies are adopted by their foster parents. This option is often considered by the State to be in the child's best interests because emotional ties are already established. The foster parents, following approval as adoptive parents, enter into an adoption assistance agreement with the State agency if a subsidy is requested. Foster parents can also apply to adopt a child with special needs who is not already in foster care placement with them.

Attachment 5 to FPM Bulletin 792-46 (4)

- What kinds of services are available for the child and the adopting family?

Federal IV-E Program

Under title IV-E, the child is eligible for any social service that is available to an AFDC-eligible child under the State's title XX program. These services may include counseling, legal, pre- and post-adoption, information and referral or transportation services. Each State's title XX program is different and families should check with the State agency to determine what services are available. Also, additional services may be available that are not provided by title XX or Medicaid, but these must be specified in the adoption assistance agreement.

In the event that an adoptive family moves from one State to another, if a needed service specified in the adoption assistance agreement is not available in the new State of residence, the State making the original IV-E adoption assistance payment remains financially responsible for providing the specified service.

State Adoption Subsidy Programs

For children receiving State-only subsidies the specific services to be provided are included in the agreement.

- How do parents who have already adopted a child with special needs feel about the adoption subsidy program?

Studies show that the vast majority of parents are satisfied with the program. In one study, most parents interviewed said that they would consider adopting another special needs child; those who said they would not cited their age or the size of their family as reasons—not dissatisfaction with the program or the child.

Further, studies have shown that neither the adopting parents nor the adopted children attached a stigma to the receipt of adoption assistance. Additionally, most parents interviewed in the study reported that the agency social worker was adequately informed about community resources, eligibility requirements for subsidy, approval, review and recertification procedures, and legal issues on assisted adoption. Approximately 70 percent said that more information and activities for parents after adoption would be useful, such as parent support groups.

A California study found that ninety percent of the parents indicated their overall satisfaction with the program by responding that they would definitely encourage friends interested in adopting to participate in the program.

This article was written by Cynthia Ragan, M.S.W.

Attachment 3

MATERIALS PROVIDED AT THE OCTOBER 17 SEMINAR ON ADOPTION

1. ADOPTION PRIMER. Provides information about the adoption process and suggests agencies and resources on adoption.
2. WAYS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEK. Lists a dozen ways to celebrate National Adoption Week.
3. NATIONAL ADOPTION INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE CATALOG. A catalog of adoption publications and services available from the Clearinghouse.
4. THE ADMINISTRATION'S LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL. A fact sheet describing the Administration's legislative proposal to reimburse Federal employees for adoption expenses. Copies of the proposed legislation are also available.
5. ADOPTION RESOURCES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AREA. A listing of adoption resources in the District of Columbia taken from the National Adoption Directory, including public and private adoption agencies, adoption exchanges, photo listings, and adoptive parent support groups. (Agencies may request resource lists for up to four states.)
6. SAMPLE FLYER FOR LUNCHTIME ADOPTION AWARENESS PROGRAM.
7. SAMPLE NEWSLETTER STORY ABOUT NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEK.
8. SAMPLE FLYER PROMOTING NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEK.

The materials listed above, as well as several fact sheets on adoption similar to those included in attachments 4 and 5 of the FPM bulletin, may be obtained by calling HHS's National Adoption Information Clearinghouse at 202-842-1919.

Attachment 2

SAMPLE

AGENCY HEAD STATEMENT ENCOURAGING ADOPTION AWARENESS

As our nation looks toward Thanksgiving Day, we realize that there is much for which we are thankful. If we were to make a list, our families would most certainly be at the top. This Thanksgiving Day there will be thousands of children celebrating the holiday with their adoptive families for the first time. These children have a very special reason to be thankful. Now they can share their love with a family that wants them and is thankful for them. But, there are thousands more children who are waiting to be adopted.

President Bush has issued a proclamation declaring the week of November 19-25 as National Adoption Week. I am pleased that here at _____, we have planned [list activities here]. I encourage you to participate.

As part of the Administration's initiative encouraging adoption and foster parenting, the President has asked agency heads to develop methods of supporting the adoption plans and needs of their employees and for promoting adoption awareness among the Federal workforce. I am committed to carrying out the President's request.

More families are needed to give our most vulnerable children the adoptive homes they so justly deserve. An increased awareness of all Americans about our waiting children will result in more families opening up their hearts and homes to these children. It is my hope that the National Adoption Week activities here at the Agency will help some of these children bring their special love to a family they can call their own.

Through our _____ Office you can find out about resources available to assist you in learning more about the adoption process. Also, supervisors are encouraged to be as flexible as possible with employees in the process of adopting or caring for a newly adopted child so that leave needs can be met. There are personnel programs and policies in place in the federal workplace that can assist employees who are considering adopting. Please contact _____ in the _____ Office (phone: _____) for more information.

I would like to end with a personal request. I invite those of you who have experienced the wonderful rewards of adoption to become "adoption ambassadors" within the Agency. Please share your experiences and offer your support to others who are seriously considering adoption.

Through our efforts and those of many other Americans, when Thanksgiving Day arrives next year there will be thousands of new adoptive families celebrating together.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving... and Adoption Week.

s/ Agency Head

Wendy - Fax
690-6562

POSSIBLE ADOPTION ACTIONS

September 12, 1996

GOAL 1: Increase the adoption placement rate for hard-to-place children. Set numerical targets for the number of children with special needs who are adopted over the next three years to be doubled. This would eliminate the backlog of waiting children.

ACTIONS:

1. Goal-oriented Planning and Technical Assistance. Work with states that commit to meet numerical targets by providing technical assistance on the development of outcome measures and automated data systems to help reach these goals. Estimated cost: \$10 million/year.
2. Non-financial Incentives for Improved Performance. Recognize successful states through special commendations or White House events and foster competition by issuing an annual state-by-state report card.
3. Financial Incentives. Increase reimbursement for adoption subsidies for special needs adoptions by \$1,000 in states that reach or come within 5% of reaching of the annual target. Estimated cost: \$50 to \$75 million over 3 years.

Raise federal match to states for recruiting adoptive families from 50% to 75%. Estimated cost: \$150 million over 3 years, assuming states continue to spend at current levels for recruitment.

GOAL 2: Find permanent homes for waiting children within one year of entering the child welfare system.

ACTIONS:

1. Statutory Changes. Under current law, states are required to hold a dispositional hearing 18 months after a child has been placed in foster care. Develop legislation to shorten that period to 12 months.
2. Regulatory Changes. Currently, the federal government requires that "reasonable efforts" be made to prevent placement and reunify families before a parent's rights can be legally terminated. Clarify and expand definition of reasonable efforts so that it allows arrangement for a permanent home for a child in a timely manner.

Change "dispositional hearings" to "permanency planning" hearings by clarifying that planning can include referrals for termination of parental rights or to legal guardianship or other permanent placement.

3. Financial Assistance. Make funds available through the Adoption Opportunities Act to states for a "Removing Barriers to Permanency Project" to identify barriers, propose and implement solutions, and target funds to place children who have been waiting particularly long times and to implement the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act. Estimated cost: \$30 million.

GOAL 3: Increase public awareness of the benefits of adoption. Undertake a high visibility education and awareness campaign and promote "adoption-friendly" policies in the public and private sectors.

ACTIONS:

1. Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to lead a public awareness effort, including public service announcements, use of the internet, and the appointment of a high-profile advisory council with members chosen for their ability to represent and work with various "sectors" of the community (e.g., faith community, business, entertainment industry, etc.).
2. Direct the Secretary of the Treasury to disseminate information about tax benefits and other adoption benefits.
3. Direct the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to promote adoption among Federal employees and make the Federal government a model of adoption-friendly policies.

This would include: (1) developing legislation to create a new category of leave benefits for Federal employees to provide 5 days of paid leave for adoptive parents and an additional 5 days for parents who adopt children with special needs (in addition to current leave benefits); (2) developing legislation to reimburse Federal employees if they adopt a child (proposed during the Bush Administration but not passed); and (3) directing all agencies to provide information and support (e.g., a bank of federal employees who have adopted to act as mentors for prospective adoptive parents).

4. Direct the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce to identify and recognize model adoption-friendly policies in the private sector.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

TO Wendy Jacobson

FROM Jennifer Klein

FAX # 690-6562

PHONE # _____

OF PAGES (including cover) _____

COMMENTS Here is the document. I wanted to
point out that Goal 1 is no
longer for special needs children only.
This was OMB's suggestion. Also, I
knew you are working some things
out with OMB on the pieces that cost
\$. Keep me posted as they change.
I forget to mention on the phone--
in addition to the Exec. Order and the
proposed regs, I think we need a
longer description of each proposal. What it
is, how it will work, cost estimates etc.
Please call with any questions/problems.
I need drafts by COB Friday. Thanks.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

09-Oct-1996 09:16am

TO: Jennifer L. Klein
FROM: Jeremy D. Benami
 Domestic Policy Council
CC: Carol H. Rasco
CC: Lyndell Hogan
SUBJECT: RE: Adoption Update

Jen

I just spoke a bit with Carol about #2 on your list. She flagged for us that we should explore with OMB the cost estimates around any statutory or regulatory moves in this direction. I think your subsequent note that the 1 year would be a goal is helpful - but we need to be sure that OMB/CBO would not score additional costs associated with this. We just need to be sure that there isn't hidden in this idea some additional costs that the states will have to bear (or federal costs for that matter) that may limit our ability to propose other initiatives later.

The regulatory change in the definition of reasonable effort might even be a cost saver since it could mean less time in foster care for some kids - freeing up \$ for other services on the front end. Either way, it would be helpful to ensure that we know the budget implications of these moves and how those impact the cw system as a whole.

Question: do you have to do a statutory change if the one year is just going to be a goal?

ADOPTION ACTIONS

GOAL 1: Increase the adoption placement rate for hard-to-place children. Set numerical targets to double the number of children who are adopted over the next three years. This would eliminate the backlog of waiting children.

ACTIONS:

1. Goal-oriented Planning and Technical Assistance. Work with states that commit to meet numerical targets by providing technical assistance on the development of outcome measures and automated data systems to help reach these goals. Estimated cost: \$10 million/year.
2. Non-financial Incentives for Improved Performance. Recognize successful states through special commendations or White House events and foster competition by issuing an annual state-by-state report card.
3. Financial Incentives. Increase reimbursement for adoption subsidies for special needs adoptions by \$1,000 in states that reach or come within 5% of reaching of the annual target. Estimated cost: \$50 to \$75 million over 3 years.

Raise federal match to states for recruiting adoptive families from 50% to 75%.
Estimated cost: \$150 million over 3 years, assuming states continue to spend at current levels for recruitment.

Setting goals →
double # of
kids
receiving
adoption
assistance
R → getting
more people
on assistance.

GOAL 2: Find permanent homes for waiting children within one year of entering the child welfare system.

ACTIONS:

1. Statutory Changes. Under current law, states are required to hold a dispositional hearing 18 months after a child has been placed in foster care. Develop legislation to shorten that period to 12 months and require administrative hearings every six months.
2. Regulatory Changes. Currently, the federal government requires that "reasonable efforts" be made to prevent placement and reunify families before a parent's rights can be legally terminated. Clarify and expand definition of reasonable efforts so that it allows arrangement for a permanent home for a child in a timely manner.

Change "dispositional hearings" to "permanency planning" hearings by clarifying that planning can include referrals for termination of parental rights or to legal guardianship or other permanent placement.

3. Financial Assistance. Make funds available through the Adoption Opportunities Act to states for a "Removing Barriers to Permanency Project" to identify barriers, propose and implement solutions, and target funds to place children who have been waiting particularly long times and to implement the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act. Estimated cost: \$30 million.

GOAL 3: Increase public awareness of the benefits of adoption. Undertake a high visibility education and awareness campaign and promote "adoption-friendly" policies in the public and private sectors.

ACTIONS:

1. Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to lead a public awareness effort, including public service announcements, use of the internet, and the appointment of a high-profile advisory council with members chosen for their ability to represent and work with various "sectors" of the community (e.g., faith community, business, entertainment industry, etc.).
2. Direct the Secretary of the Treasury to disseminate information about tax benefits and other adoption benefits.
3. Direct the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to promote adoption among Federal employees and make the Federal government a model of adoption-friendly policies.

This would include: (1) developing legislation to reimburse Federal employees if they adopt a child (proposed during the Bush Administration but not passed); and (2) directing all agencies to provide information and support (e.g., a bank of federal employees who have adopted to act as mentors for prospective adoptive parents).

4. Direct the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce to identify and recognize model adoption-friendly policies in the private sector.

ADOPTION ACTIONS

GOAL 1: Increase the adoption placement rate for hard-to-place children. Set numerical targets to double the number of children who are adopted over the next three years. This would eliminate the backlog of waiting children.

ACTIONS:

1. Goal-oriented Planning and Technical Assistance. Work with states that commit to meet numerical targets by providing technical assistance on the development of outcome measures and automated data systems to help reach these goals. Estimated cost: \$10 million/year.
2. Non-financial Incentives for Improved Performance. Recognize successful states through special commendations or White House events and foster competition by issuing an annual state-by-state report card.
3. Financial Incentives. Increase reimbursement for adoption subsidies for special needs adoptions by \$1,000 in states that reach or come within 5% of reaching of the annual target. Estimated cost: \$50 to \$75 million over 3 years.

Raise federal match to states for recruiting adoptive families from 50% to 75%. Estimated cost: \$150 million over 3 years, assuming states continue to spend at current levels for recruitment.

GOAL 2: Find permanent homes for waiting children within one year of entering the child welfare system.

ACTIONS:

1. Statutory Changes. Under current law, states are required to hold a dispositional hearing 18 months after a child has been placed in foster care. Develop legislation to shorten that period to 12 months and require administrative hearings every six months.
2. Regulatory Changes. Currently, the federal government requires that "reasonable efforts" be made to prevent placement and reunify families before a parent's rights can be legally terminated. Clarify and expand definition of reasonable efforts so that it allows arrangement for a permanent home for a child in a timely manner.

Change "dispositional hearings" to "permanency planning" hearings by clarifying that planning can include referrals for termination of parental rights or to legal guardianship or other permanent placement.

3. Financial Assistance. Make funds available through the Adoption Opportunities Act to states for a "Removing Barriers to Permanency Project" to identify barriers, propose and implement solutions, and target funds to place children who have been waiting particularly long times and to implement the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act. Estimated cost: \$30 million.

GOAL 3: Increase public awareness of the benefits of adoption. Undertake a high visibility education and awareness campaign and promote "adoption-friendly" policies in the public and private sectors.

ACTIONS:

1. Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to lead a public awareness effort, including public service announcements, use of the internet, and the appointment of a high-profile advisory council with members chosen for their ability to represent and work with various "sectors" of the community (e.g., faith community, business, entertainment industry, etc.).
2. Direct the Secretary of the Treasury to disseminate information about tax benefits and other adoption benefits.
3. Direct the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to promote adoption among Federal employees and make the Federal government a model of adoption-friendly policies.

This would include: (1) developing legislation to reimburse Federal employees if they adopt a child (proposed during the Bush Administration but not passed); and (2) directing all agencies to provide information and support (e.g., a bank of federal employees who have adopted to act as mentors for prospective adoptive parents).

4. Direct the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce to identify and recognize model adoption-friendly policies in the private sector.