

ending in FY 1995 and otherwise eligible applicants not holding current grants. The applications will be reviewed by State, and awards will be made during the last quarter of FY 1995 (July - September 1995).

Section 385(a)(2) of the Act requires that 90 percent of the funds appropriated under Part A (The Runaway and Homeless Youth Grant Program) be used to establish and strengthen runaway and homeless youth Basic Centers. Total funding under Part A of the Act for FY 1995 is approximately \$40.5 million. This sum, which is an increase over the FY 1994 level, triggers the provision in the Act calling for a minimum award of \$100,000 to each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and a minimum award of \$45,000 to each of the four insular areas: the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

b. Transitional Living Program Grants

Part B, section 321 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended, authorizes grants to establish and operate transitional living projects for homeless youth. This program is structured to help older, homeless youth achieve self-sufficiency and avoid long-term dependency on social services. Transitional living projects provide shelter, skills training, and support services to homeless youth ages 16 through 21 for a continuous period not exceeding 18 months.

In FY 1995, approximately \$12.9 million is available for TLP direct service grants. Approximately \$6.3 million has already been awarded as new start FY 1995 funding to applicants that were successful in the competition conducted at the end of FY 1994, and the remaining \$6.6 million will be awarded as continuation funding to TLP grants awarded in FY 1994. Further, it is projected that all potential FY 1996 TLP funds will be awarded in the form of continuation grants. In consequence, no applications for new start Transitional Living Program grants will be solicited in FY 1995 for use of FY 1996 funds.

c. National Communications System

Part C, section 331 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, as amended, mandates support for a National Communications System to assist runaway and homeless youth in communicating with their families and with service providers. In FY 1994, a five-year grant was awarded to the National Runaway Switchboard, Inc., in Chicago, Illinois, to operate the system.

Non-competitive continuation funding will be awarded to the grantee in FY 1995.

d. Support Services for Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

(1) Training and Technical Assistance

Part D, section 342 of the Act authorizes the Department to make grants to statewide and regional nonprofit organizations to provide training and technical assistance (T&TA) to organizations that are eligible to receive service grants under the Act. Eligible organizations include the Basic Centers authorized under Part A of the Act (The Runaway and Homeless Youth Grant Program) and the service grantees authorized under Part B of the Act (The Transitional Living Grant Program). Section 3511 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, which authorizes the Drug Abuse Prevention Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth (DAPP), also authorizes support for T&TA to runaway and homeless youth service providers. The purpose of this T&TA is to strengthen the programs and to enhance the knowledge and skills of youth service workers.

In FY 1994, the Family and Youth Services Bureau made ten Cooperative Agreement Awards, one in each of the ten Federal Regions, to provide T&TA to agencies funded under the three Federal programs for runaway and homeless youth (the BCP, the TLP, and the DAPP). Each Cooperative Agreement is unique, being based on the characteristics and different T&TA needs in the respective Regions. Each has a five-year project period that will expire in FY 1999.

Non-competitive continuation funding will be awarded to the ten T&TA grantees in FY 1995.

(2) National Clearinghouse on Runaway and Homeless Youth

In June 1992, a five-year contract was awarded by the Department to establish and operate the National Clearinghouse on Runaway and Homeless Youth. The purpose of the Clearinghouse is to serve as a central information point for professionals and agencies involved in the development and implementation of services to runaway and homeless youth. To this end, the Clearinghouse:

- Collects, evaluates and maintains reports, materials and other products regarding service provision to runaway and homeless youth;
- Develops and disseminates reports and bibliographies useful to the field;
- Identifies areas in which new or additional reports, materials and products are needed; and

- Carries out other activities designed to provide the field with the information needed to improve services to runaway and homeless youth.

Non-competitive continuation funding will be awarded to sustain the Clearinghouse in FY 1995.

(3) Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS)

In FY 1992, a three-year contract was awarded to implement the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS) across three FYSB programs: The BCP, the TLP, and the DAPP. In FY 1993, using an existing computer-based, information gathering protocol, the contractor began providing training and technical assistance to these grantees in the use of the RHYMIS. The data generated by the system are used to produce reports and information regarding the programs, including information for the required reports to Congress on each of the three programs. The RHYMIS also serves as a management tool for FYSB and for the individual programs.

Non-competitive continuation funding for the RHYMIS will be an option in FY 1995.

(4) Monitoring Support for FYSB Programs

In FY 1992, FYSB began developing a comprehensive monitoring instrument and set of site visit protocols, including a peer-review component for the BCP, the TLP, and the DAPP. Pilot implementation of the instrument and related protocols began in FY 1993. Also in FY 1993 a new contract to provide logistical support for the peer review monitoring process was awarded, including nationwide distribution of the new materials. Use of the new instrument and peer review process during the first full year of operation has resulted in identification of a number of strengths and weaknesses among individual grantees. These findings have been used by the Regional T&TA providers as a basis for their activities.

Non-competitive continuation funding for the logistical contractor will be provided in FY 1995, and a new contract for the effort may be solicited in FY 1996.

e. Research and Demonstration Initiatives

Section 315 of the Act authorizes the Department to make grants to States, localities, and private entities to carry out research, demonstration, and service projects designed to increase knowledge concerning and to improve services for runaway and homeless youth. These