

activities are important in order to identify emerging issues and to develop and test models which address such issues.

*(1) Services for Youth in Rural Areas*

Because of geographic distances, population density and, in some cases, cultural differences, it is difficult to provide effective services to runaway and homeless youth in rural areas. In many such areas, scarcity of funds and other resources precludes funding of separate, autonomous Basic Center programs. The need exists for innovative and effective models for the provision of runaway and homeless youth services in rural areas, including Indian reservations. The new models should make services accessible to youth without setting up inordinately expensive service agencies in low populated areas. In FY 1993, first-year funding was awarded to eight grants to develop such models. Non-competitive continuation funding was provided in FY 1994 and will be provided in FY 1995.

*(2) Analysis, Synthesis, and Interpretation of New Information Concerning Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs*

Over the past few years, considerable new knowledge and information has been developed concerning the runaway and homeless youth programs administered by FYSB, and concerning the youth and families served. The main sources of this new information are the Runaway and Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS), the results of RHY monitoring visits, and a number of evaluation studies underway or recently completed. The RHYMIS, monitoring reports, and the evaluation studies contain descriptions of FYSB's grantee agencies, along with detailed data on the youth and families served, such as demographic profiles, presenting problems, services provided, and service outcomes. There is need for analysis, synthesis, and interpretation of this new information that will be useful in development of RHY plans and policies for the Family and Youth Services Bureau.

A contract will be awarded in FY 1995 to analyze, synthesize, and develop the program and policy implications of the new information now becoming available. The study will be developed within a context of the most significant, current comprehensive theories of youth development. Proposals to conduct the study will be solicited from the eight Master Contractors for the "Policy and Program

Studies" consortium recently established by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

*f. Priority for a Comprehensive Youth Development Approach.*

Over the past several decades, the Federal government has established many programs designed to alleviate discrete problems identified among American youth. Examples are programs for school dropout prevention, juvenile delinquency prevention, abuse and neglect prevention, adolescent pregnancy prevention, youth gang prevention, drug abuse prevention, and compensatory programs to improve the performance of minority and non-English-speaking youth in the public schools. Among these many programs are the BCP, the DAPP, and the TLP.

A shared feature of all these programs is their emphasis on undesirable behavior, with a number of negative consequences. Youth "problems" are commonly used to define and blame, even to punish, the youth. Further, the labeling of a youth as a drug abuser or a delinquent may lead to interventions too narrow to take into account the full array of causes leading to the abuse or delinquency, such as parental neglect, school failure, or poverty. Practicing youth workers are well aware that "single-problem" youth are rare, and that interventions from many different perspectives, and supports, including funding, from many different sources, are required to effectively help troubled youth.

The disjointed services that often follow from this Federal pattern of categorical funding to correct undesirable behavior (funding that targets a single problem behavior of the youth) may be avoided if interventions are viewed from a "developmental" perspective. A developmental perspective views adolescence and youth as the passage from the almost total dependence of the child into the independence and self-sufficiency of the young adult. The various changes, stages, and growth spurts of the passage may be considered as the youth's natural, healthy responses to the challenges and opportunities provided by functional families, peers, neighborhoods, schools and churches. The tasks of youth services providers are seen, thus, not as correcting the "pathologies" of troubled youth, but rather as providing for the successive "needs" of maturing individuals: The psychological need to develop a clear self-identity; the sociological need to resolve disagreements through talking and not through flight or fighting; the economic need to prepare for and enter

into a career; and the familial needs for sharing, for trusting, for giving love and receiving love, for commitment, and for all that establishing a family entails.

This developmental approach will become central to all FYSB activities and programs over the next two years.

*g. Priorities for Administrative Changes*

To support the increased emphasis on youth development, a number of management or administrative changes will be implemented over the coming years:

- The Regional Offices have and will continue to play a significant role in the assessment of grant applications. This role includes Regional staff involvement (1) as chairpersons for peer review panels and (2) in conduct of administrative reviews of new start applications that take into account knowledge about the applicants' experience, effectiveness, and potential and of the geographic distribution of the grantees in their respective States and Regions. Final funding decisions will remain the responsibility of the Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

- The Administration on Children and Families (ACF) will change the deadline for receipt of a Runaway and Homeless Youth grant application from the postal date of the application to the actual receipt date of the application by ACF. Applicants should carefully examine receipt dates in this announcement to assure that they meet deadlines in the manner prescribed.

- Efforts will be continued to avoid the problems of gaps in financial support between the expiration of one grant and the beginning of a new grant for current grantees that are successful in competition.

- Where possible, FYSB will attempt to increase minimum grant funding levels to amounts sufficient to support the required youth services. However, no minimum levels will be established at this time and the recommendations of Regional staff will be considered in this matter. We suggest that all applicants examine carefully the program announcements to ensure that they request sufficient funds.

*F. Eligible Applicants*

The various legislative Acts authorizing the runaway and homeless youth programs addressed in this **Federal Register** announcement identify "eligible applicants" differently. Accordingly, the definition appropriate to each individual program is found in Part III of this announcement as a part of each program area description.