

site(s) and area(s) to be served by the proposed project. Maps or other graphic aids may be attached. (The applicant should refer to Part I, Section C, of this announcement for a description of each program's purpose.)

**Criterion 2. Results or Benefits Expected (20 Points)**

Identify the results and benefits to be derived from the project. State the numbers of runaway and homeless youth and their families to be served, and describe the types and quantities of services to be provided. Identify the kinds of data to be collected and maintained, and discuss the criteria to be used to evaluate the results and success of the project.

**Criterion 3. Approach (35 Points)**

Outline a plan of action pertaining to the scope of the project and detail how the proposed work will be accomplished. Describe any unusual features of the project, such as extraordinary social and community involvements, and how the project will be maintained after termination of Federal support. Explain the methodology that will be used to determine if the needs identified and discussed are being met and if the results and benefits identified are being achieved.

**Criterion 4. Staff Background and Organizational Experience (20 Points)**

List the organizations, cooperators, consultants, or other key individuals who will work on the project along with a short description of the nature of their effort or contribution. Summarize the background and experience of the project director and key project staff and the history of the organization. Demonstrate the ability to effectively manage the project and to coordinate activities with other agencies. Applicants are encouraged to discuss staff and organizational experience in working with runaway and homeless youth populations and may include information regarding their past performance under RHYP grants. Applicants may refer to the staff resumes and to the Organizational Capability Statement included in the submission.

Legislation authorizing each of the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs requires that priority for funding be given to agencies with experience in providing direct services to runaway and homeless youth. In line with this requirement, BCP and DAPP applicants having three (3) or more years of continuous effort serving runaway and homeless youth in one or

more areas set forth in section 312 of the Act are eligible to receive an additional five (5) points on this criterion.

**Criterion 5. Budget Appropriateness (10 Points)**

Demonstrate that the project's costs (overall costs, average cost per youth served, costs for different services) are reasonable in view of the anticipated results and benefits. (Applicants may refer (1) to the budget information presented in Standard Forms 424 and 424A and in the associated budget justification, and (2) to the results or benefits expected as identified under Criterion 2.)

The Program Narrative information provided by the applicant in response to the priority area description identified in Part III of this announcement should be organized and presented according to these five evaluation criteria.

**Part III. Program Areas**

**A. Basic Center Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth**

**Eligible Applicants:** Any State, unit of local government, combination of units of local government, public or private agency, organization, institution, or other non-profit entity is eligible to apply for these funds. Federally recognized Indian Tribes are eligible to apply for Basic Center grants. Non-Federally recognized Indian Tribes and urban Indian organizations are also eligible to apply for grants as private, non-profit agencies.

Grantees (including subgrantees) with current Basic Center grants who are eligible to apply for non-competitive continuation funding in FY 1995 may not apply for competitive new Basic Center grants under this announcement. Applicants may refer to Part VI, Appendix D.1 for a listing of current grantees which are ineligible for grants under this priority area.

As required by runaway and homeless youth legislation, priority for funding will be given to agencies with demonstrated experience establishing and operating centers that provide direct services to runaway and homeless youth in a manner that is outside the law enforcement system, the child welfare system, the mental health system and the juvenile justice system. Demonstrated experience providing direct services means three (3) or more years of continuous effort serving runaway and homeless youth in one or more areas set forth in section 312 of the Act. Applications claiming credit for this preference must include a statement of no more than one page documenting the relevant experience.

**Program Purpose, Goals, and Objectives:** The Administration on Children, Youth and Families will award approximately 115 new service grants to establish or strengthen existing or proposed runaway and homeless youth Basic Centers. These programs must be locally controlled efforts that provide temporary shelter, counseling and related services to juveniles who have left home without permission of their parents or guardians or to other homeless juveniles.

Applications are solicited under this program area to provide direct services that fulfill the program purposes, goals and objectives set forth in the legislation and as specified in Part I, section C.1 of this announcement.

**Background:** The Runaway Youth and Homeless Youth Act of 1974 was a response to widespread concern regarding the alarming number of youth who were leaving home without parental permission, crossing State lines, and who, while away from home, were exposed to exploitation and other dangers of street life.

Each Basic Center funded under the authorizing legislation is required to provide outreach to runaway and homeless youth; temporary shelter for up to fifteen days; food; clothing; individual, group, and family counseling; and related services. Many Basic Centers provide their services in residential settings with a capacity for no more than 20 youth. Some centers also provide some or all of their shelter services through host homes (usually private homes under contract to the centers), with counseling and referrals being provided from a central location.

Currently, approximately 60,000 youth annually receive shelter for an average of 12 nights and other ongoing services through ACYF-funded Basic Centers. The primary presenting problems of these youth include conflict with parents or other adults, including physical and sexual abuse; other family crises such as divorce, death, or sudden loss of income; and personal problems such as drug use, or problems with peers, school attendance and truancy, bad grades, inability to get along with teachers, and learning disabilities.

Low self-esteem is a major problem among this population. Half have a poor self image; somewhat less than half are depressed; and 10 percent are possibly suicidal.

After receiving ongoing services from shelter programs, approximately one half of the youth return to their families. One-third are provided alternative, but safe, long-term living arrangements. Five percent return to the streets, and 10