

programs. Curriculum materials include the Be A Winner Action Book for 6–8 graders, a RAD Adult Guide and a RAD Coloring Book for K–4 graders. This program will be supplemented and expanded to provide additional and updated curriculum materials, reach additional program sites, and demonstrate the Winner's Circle Program in Seattle, Washington. It will be funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) (\$25,000), OJJDP (\$25,000), and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (C-SAP) (\$100,000). It will be implemented by the current grantee, the National Child Safety Council. No additional applications will be solicited in fiscal year 1995.

### Missing, Exploited and Abused Children

#### New Programs

Lowcountry Children's Center, Inc.\*—\$250,000

The Lowcountry Children's Center, Inc., is a community-based program that offers services to children who are victims of violence. The Center is a nonprofit organization located in Charleston, South Carolina. Its mission is to coordinate a full range of services for abused and victimized children and their families. A major goal of the program is to restore child victims and their families to a healthy level of functioning. One Center currently provides an initial assessment, psychological testing, and individual, group, and family therapy. In addition, lay and expert testimony in court hearings, investigative/law enforcement services, on-going multidisciplinary case coordination and case tracking, professional training, and case and program consultation services are provided by the center. OJJDP funds will enable the Center to provide the array of services necessary to create a model comprehensive program of intervention for these children and their families. The Center will also focus on program evaluation and research to determine effective interventions in particular types of case-enabling the model created by this funding to be fully evaluated and, if successful, replicated. No additional applications will be solicited in fiscal year 1995.

KidsPeace\*—\$140,000

This program provides therapeutic foster care to children in crisis. Eighty percent of the children who are referred to the project are victims of child abuse. However, these children may be referred for delinquency, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy or other problems. The program now serves children in

Pennsylvania, Georgia, New York, and Indiana. The grant will enable the program to expand into one additional state in fiscal year 1995.

Multipurpose Educational Curriculum for Young Victims—\$75,000

Funds for this program will be transferred to the Office for Victims of Crime. The project will develop curriculum and training materials for use by school personnel, youth groups, and victim services providers to teach adolescents about the impact of crime on victims, about available victim assistance resources, and about strategies for providing effective peer support for young victims of crime. The program is expected to enhance victim service provider outreach activities targeting youth at risk and promote violence prevention.

### Missing, Exploited and Abused Children

#### Continuation Programs

Parents Anonymous, Inc.\*—\$250,000

Parents Anonymous, Inc., (PA) will continue the program started in fiscal year 1994 and expand services in communities that have existing PA chapters to families and youth at highest risk of delinquency. The main focus of this program is to prevent child abuse and neglect through the creation of parent support groups.

Permanent Families for Abused and Neglected Children\*—\$225,000

This is a national project to prevent unnecessary foster care placement of abused and neglected children, to reunify the families of children in care, and to ensure permanent adoptive homes when reunification is impossible. The purpose is to ensure that foster care is used only as a last resort and as a temporary solution. Accordingly, the project is designed to ensure that government's responsibility to children in foster care is acknowledged by the appropriate disciplines. Project activities include national training programs for judges, social service personnel, citizen volunteers, and others under the Reasonable Efforts Provision of 42 U.S.C. 671(a)(15), training in selected lead States; and development of a model guide for risk assessment. The program will be implemented by the current grantee, the National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges. No additional applications will be solicited in fiscal year 1995.

Children as Witnesses to Community Violence—\$170,658

This project develops, implements, and evaluates after-school interventions to protect elementary-school-age children in Washington, DC from the aftereffects of exposure to violence. The intervention program is expected to prevent or reduce the occurrence of certain negative psychological symptoms among children exposed to community violence. It should also help children develop coping skills that can reduce the likelihood of their future involvement in violence. The program is administered by Howard University and managed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). OJJDP funds will be transferred to NIJ to complete this program in fiscal year 1995.

#### Discussion of Comments

OJJDP published its proposed Comprehensive Plan for fiscal year 1995 in the **Federal Register** on December 30, 1994, 59 FR 68080, for a 45-day period of public comment. The Office received 58 letters commenting on the proposed plan. All comments have been considered in the development of the Final Comprehensive Plan for Fiscal Year 1994.

The majority of the letters OJJDP received provided positive comments about the overall plan and its programs. The following is a summary of the substantive comments and the responses by OJJDP. Unless otherwise indicated, each comment was made by a single respondent.

*Comment:* A respondent noted agreement with an emphasis on prevention and early intervention and the establishment and utilization of a system of graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders. The respondent further noted that this is a prudent and logical approach that covers the entire spectrum of responses to youth involved with the juvenile justice system and addresses community concerns about the escalation of youth violence.

*Response:* OJJDP's Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders incorporates the two principal components of delinquency prevention and improving the juvenile justice system's response to delinquent offenders through a system of graduated sanctions and a continuum of treatment alternatives. The delivery of services must be provided with a balance of: (1) Community protection and public safety; (2) juvenile offender accountability; (3) competency development; (4) individualization; and (5) representation of the interests of the community, victim and juvenile. By