

individuals receive the culturally competent services, supports, and other assistance and opportunities necessary to enable them to achieve their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and integration into the community.

ADD is also interested in activities which promote the inclusion of all individuals with developmental disabilities, including individuals with the most severe disabilities, in community life; which promote the interdependent activity of all individuals with developmental disabilities and individuals who are not disabled; and which recognize the contributions of these individuals (whether they have a disability or not), as such individuals share their talents at home, school, and work, and in recreation and leisure time.

No proposals, concept papers or other forms of applications should be submitted at this time. Any such submission will be discarded.

ADD will not respond to individual comment letters. However, all comments will be considered in preparing the final funding solicitation announcement and will be acknowledged and addressed in that announcement.

Please be reminded that, because of possible funding limitations, not all of the proposed priority areas listed below may be published in the final funding solicitation for this fiscal year.

Comments should be addressed to: Bob Williams, Commissioner, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services, Room 329-D HHH Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20201.

Proposed Fiscal Year 1995 Priority Area 1: ADD and ACYF Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) Collaboration Between Youth Service Providers and Disabilities Advocates To Enhance Services to Youth With Developmental Disabilities

The Family and Youth Services Bureau within the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), have established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designed to foster collaboration between grantee programs to provide improved access to services for youth with developmental disabilities who are at-risk of running away or becoming involved in delinquent behavior. Access to supports and services lead to self-

actualization, self-determination, and independence through employment.

An important goal of the MOU is to fund projects that demonstrate the need for and effectiveness of collaborations between the ADD and FYSB grantee programs to enable at-risk youth with developmental disabilities to achieve their full potential and grow to be successful, independent adults. Employment is an important outcome for at-risk youth with developmental disabilities. It is proposed that FYSB and ADD will jointly fund three grants in FY 1995, each for a three-year project period and each at a level of \$150,000 per year.

Applicants must document that the proposed project will be designed and implemented through collaborative efforts by FYSB and ADD funded grantees. Successful applicants would propose projects to:

- Improve coordination of services through information-sharing and networking efforts;
- Enhance service delivery through the identification of existing barriers to service provision, and
- Improve service provision through the identification of appropriate training materials and the development of collaboration strategies for comprehensive service provision to at-risk youth.

Proposed Fiscal Year 1995 Priority Area 2: Americans With Developmental Disabilities and the Criminal Justice System

Individuals with developmental disabilities (especially mental retardation), both as victims and those accused and convicted of committing crimes, are becoming increasingly involved in the criminal justice system. Moreover, these individuals often face unequal justice at the hands of police and the courts precisely because the current system is not educated or prepared to respond or adapt to their disabilities and self-advocates have not been considered as essential elements of the educational process.

According to a recent Justice Department report, youth in general are at physical and emotional risk in most facilities where they are held. Nearly one-half of the facilities surveyed exceeded their design capacity and only 20 to 26 percent had adequate bed space, health care, security, or suicide control. Youth with developmental disabilities are especially unprepared and unprotected in this stressed environment.

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires police departments to take steps, including educating and

providing information dissemination when necessary, to avoid discriminatory treatment on the basis of disability. However, to date, States and localities have received little direction on how to carry out these provisions with respect to Americans with developmental and other disabilities who get caught up in the criminal justice system.

Hence, a much more focused effort must be made toward identifying and replicating best and promising practices in this area. This is especially true if the critical concept of "community policing" is going to be applied to individuals with disabilities in a fair and effective manner throughout our Nation.

Much greater emphasis must be placed on providing current police and new recruits with the education and information needed to afford individuals with disabilities who are victims or alleged perpetrators of crime with equal justice under the law. All interrogations involving individuals whose disabilities affect comprehension and communication should be electronically recorded. This is not being done on a uniform basis. Nor is the concept of competency to stand trial being regularly applied through an evaluation of the ability to help one's lawyer prepare a defense and to understand the proceedings and the possibility of punishment.

The input and participation of individuals with developmental and other disabilities is crucial for familiarizing police and others with the unique range of needs and abilities of this population.

Additional training is needed to better prepare individuals with disabilities to avoid conduct that might place them at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of criminal activities and to negotiate in the criminal justice system should they become involved with it. An understanding of Miranda rights and responses is crucial.

ADD is particularly interested in national, State, and local self-advocacy networks, with the capacity to work collaboratively with the developmental disabilities network, service providers, law enforcement officials, criminal justice agencies, the civil rights community, and others, that would be able to spearhead such efforts and develop culturally competent, ongoing programs with measurable outcomes.