

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064



March 11, 2005

CSS LETTER: 05-07

ALL IV-D DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: FEDERAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AND GRANT APPROVAL
PROCESS

This letter is to notify local child support agencies (LCSAs) of grant opportunities and to set out the process for LCSAs to follow before applying for such grants. Grants can help LCSAs test innovative ways to improve child support performance and better serve children and families. However, it is important that the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) and the LCSAs, coordinate efforts and maximize resources to further the goals and objectives of the California Child Support Program.

New Grant Opportunities

On January 14, 2005, the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) announced its Section 1115 Demonstration Grants and on February 18, 2005, they announced the Special Improvement Project Grants (SIP Grants) for projects which further the goals of the nation's child support program.

For the Section 1115 Demonstration Grant, the priority areas are: (1) Reducing intervention and use of adversarial or formal proceedings while increasing financial security for children born out-of-wedlock; (2) Developing a comprehensive system of early intervention that will avoid future problems; (3) Having reliable and regular payments made in cases with infrequent payments and; (4) Use of specific collaboration protocols with other agencies.

For the SIP Grants, the priority areas are: (1) Customizing approaches for improved customer service; (2) Improving judicial/administrative child support enforcement processes; (3) Improving child support and marriage education services for ethnic and culturally diverse populations; (4) Improving health care coverage for children in child

Reason for this Transmittal

- State Law or Regulation Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Change
- Clarification requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by DCSS

support cases and; (5) Improving local collaboration strategies between child support enforcement and community agencies.

There are general differences between the Section 1115 Demonstration Grant and the SIP grants. Specific grant amounts will be included in the announcement for both the Section 1115 Demonstration Grant and the SIP Grants. Higher monetary grant amounts are awarded for Section 1115 Demonstration Granted projects due to the additional workload required. Aside from the fiscal difference between the grants, the Section 1115 Demonstration Grant requires an experimental design methodology. More information on the grants is available at www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse.

In addition, the federal government has established a website that provides information on upcoming federal grant opportunities. The website sets forth information on federal grants, allows for on-line application and provides an email service to notify interested individuals of upcoming grant opportunities in particular areas. The website is www.grants.gov.

Grant Approval Process

Grants provide an excellent opportunity to test new ways to improve the child support program and better serve families, especially during times of fiscal constraint; and the DCSS strongly encourages LCSAs to pursue appropriate grant opportunities. In order to ensure that all grants adhere to the mission, vision and values of the California Child Support Program, to coordinate grant proposals across the State, and to maximize grant opportunities for California's Child Support Program, all LCSAs are required to submit to DCSS any grant conceptual proposal before submission of a proposal to the granting entity. A Grant Proposal Review Form is attached. This is particularly important for the SIP Grants where OCSE traditionally looks to each state IV-D agency for review of grant proposals before awarding grants in that state. The DCSS will review the proposal for consistency with the goals and objectives of the statewide child support program, cost-effectiveness, and avoidance of duplication with other projects.

Grant applications for the 1115 Demonstration Grants are due to the OCSE by April 5, 2005. Therefore, all LCSAs who are interested in applying for a Section 1115 Demonstration Grant must provide DCSS with a conceptual proposal or proposed grant idea by **March 23, 2005**. Grant applications for the SIP Grants are due to the OCSE by May 3, 2005. All LCSAs who are interested in applying for a SIP Grant must first submit a conceptual or draft proposal for a grant to DCSS by **April 1, 2005**. Please submit your conceptual proposals for either the 1115 Demonstration Grant or the SIP Grant to your DCSS Regional Administrators who is responsible for coordinating all grant proposals for DCSS. A listing of DCSS Regional Administrators is attached. The DCSS will review all proposed grant ideas and notify the requesting LCSAs which proposal(s) it will support. The DCSS will also work with the selected LCSAs in completing their grant applications, as appropriate. Additionally, any LCSA who is contacted by an

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outside organization seeking support or commitment for a grant proposal should first seek review of the proposal by DCSS before providing the requested commitment or support.

If you have any questions about grant opportunities, please contact your Regional Administrator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greta Wallace".

GRETA WALLACE

Director

Attachments

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