

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

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



April 5, 2006

CSS LETTER: 06-11

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 detail the process for LCSAs to follow before applying for these grants. Grants can assist LCSAs pilot innovative strategies to improve child support performance and better serve children and families. 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 March 3, 2006, the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) announced their Section 1115 Demonstration and 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) Timely revisions of orders based on ability to pay for categories of persons affected by lowered pay (layoffs, military personnel, and/or prisoners) and provisions of related services; (2) Increased child support enforcement collections/efficiencies through increasing levels of automation or re-engineering business practices, and; (3) Improved child support results through collaboration with child welfare agencies.

For the SIP Grants, the priority areas are: (1) Promoting healthy relationships for unwed couples to improve children's financial and medical security; (2) Improving child support by encouraging parents and child support enforcement agencies to work together for better case management and results, and; (3) Expanding and improving enforcement and/or collection tools and child support cases.

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

There are general differences between the Section 1115 Demonstration Grant and the SIP Grants. For instance, higher monetary grant amounts are awarded for Section 1115 Demonstration Granted projects due to the additional workload required. Specific grant amounts are included in the announcement for both the Section 1115 Demonstration Grant and the SIP Grants. Aside from the monetary difference between the grants, the Section 1115 Demonstration Grant requires an experimental design methodology. More information on the grants is available at: www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/index.html.

In addition, the federal government has established a website that provides information on federal grants. The website, www.grants.gov, 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.

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 constraints; 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 the DCSS any conceptual grant 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 California Child Support Program, cost-effectiveness, and avoidance of duplication with other projects. Upon approval, the DCSS will draft a letter of support for the LCSA to include with their grant application.

All LCSAs who are interested in applying for a grant must first submit their completed Grant Proposal Review Form, which should include a conceptual or draft proposal for grant submission, to the DCSS by **April 14, 2006**. Grant applications for the 1115 Demonstration and SIP Grants are due to the OCSE by **May 24, 2006**.

Please submit your proposal(s) for either the 1115 Demonstration Grant or the SIP Grant to your assigned DCSS Regional Administrator. A list of the DCSS Regional Administrators who will coordinate the grant proposals for the DCSS, is attached. The DCSS will review all proposed grant concepts and notify the LCSAs on the proposals which have been selected. The DCSS will also work with the selected LCSAs in completing their grant applications, as appropriate.

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Any LCSA who is contacted by an outside organization seeking support or commitment for a grant proposal should first seek review of the proposal by the DCSS before providing the requested commitment or support.

If you have general questions about these grant opportunities, please contact your Regional Administrator. Please contact Paula Rockwell at (916) 464-4886 for technical questions about grant requirements.

Sincerely,

S/GRETA WALLACE

GRETA WALLACE
Director

Attachments



**DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS
ASSIGNMENTS**

**REGION 1 - Northern
TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS**

Butte - Victor Rea
Colusa - Lupe Gonzales
Del Norte - Cheryl Stewart
Glenn - Victor Rea
Humboldt - Cheryl Stewart
Lake - Cheryl Stewart
Lassen - Lupe Gonzales
Mendocino - Cheryl Stewart
Placer - Victor Rea
Plumas - Lupe Gonzales
Shasta - Victor Rea
Sierra Nevada - Lupe Gonzales
Siskiyou/Modoc - Lupe Gonzales
Sutter - Victor Rea
Tehama - Victor Rea
Trinity - Cheryl Stewart
Yolo - Lupe Gonzales
Yuba - Cheryl Stewart

**REGION 2 - Bay Area
CHERYL STEWART
(916) 464-2522**

Alameda
Contra Costa
Marin
Monterey
Napa
San Francisco
San Mateo
Santa Clara
Santa Cruz/San Benito

**REGION 3 - Central
LUPE GONZALES
(916) 464-5382**

Central Sierra
Eastern Sierra
El Dorado
Fresno
Kings
Madera
Mariposa
Merced
Sacramento
San Joaquin
Stanislaus
Tulare
Tuolumne

**REGION 4 - Southern
VICTOR REA
(916) 464-5464**

Kern
Imperial
Riverside
San Bernardino
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Ventura

**REGION 5 - South Coast
MARY LAWRENCE
(916) 464-0102**

Los Angeles
Orange

**REGION 5 - South Coast
ANNETTE SILER
(916) 464-5496**

San Diego

