

## RESEARCH COORDINATION COUNCIL

The Administration for Children and Families benefited from its participation in the deliberations of the Research Coordination Council in coordinating its research activities across the Department. The discussions demonstrated several overlapping areas of focus and concern among the Department's programs and identified opportunities for collaboration and joint funding among OPDIVs. Such collaboration and coordination support the "One Department" concept.

Research funding in ACF is included in several appropriation accounts, and is aligned with the Department's research priorities as shown in the table below:

**Research Coordination Council**  
(Dollars in Thousands)

Research Priority:	FY 2005	FY 2006
I. Working Toward Independence	\$135,540*	\$139,414*
II. Rallying the Armies of Compassion	2,092	1,144
III. No Child Left Behind	108,760	110,476
IV. Promoting Active Aging and Improving Long-Term Care	--	--
V. Protecting and Empowering Specific Populations	10,951	10,951
VI. Helping the Uninsured and Increasing Access to Health Insurance	--	--
VII. Realizing the Possibilities of 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Health Care	--	--
VIII. Ensuring Our Homeland is Prepared to Respond to Health Emergencies	--	--
IX. Understanding Health Differences and Disparities-Closing the Gaps	--	--
X. Preventing Disease, Illness, and Injury	--	--
XI. Agency-specific Priorities	--	--
Total RD&E	\$257,343	\$261,985

\*The President's proposal for welfare reauthorization includes \$100 million for research, demonstrations, and technical assistance primarily related to healthy marriage.

In addressing Research Priority I -- Working toward Independence, ACF expects to continue to work closely with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) in funding some projects jointly and providing funding support for others in areas of mutual interest. ACF has actively pursued collaboration with ASPE in evaluating strategies for promoting self-sufficiency and the investigation of such issues as caseload decline, workforce participation, and characteristics of leavers relating to welfare reform. ACF and ASPE have also collaborated on projects related to supporting healthy marriage, including evaluations of marriage education programs and exploring options for improving data on marriage and divorce at the federal, state and local levels. The operational results of welfare reform and findings from funded projects are of utmost importance to the Administration and the Congress for policy making and reauthorization of legislation. In addition to collaboration within the Department in the funding of projects, ACF has also forged close ties with the Department of Labor and the Department of Agriculture in the investigation of issue areas of mutual interest.

ACF is supporting research and conducting studies related to social services provided by faith-based and community-based organizations in the implementing the Compassion Capital Fund program. The Compassion Capital Fund is an important means for meeting the objectives of the Faith-based and Community Initiative. ACF is supporting studies to identify promising practices and to assess the effectiveness of the services designed to help “level the playing field” and increase the organizational and operating capacity of grassroots organizations. Since these initiatives often involve activities that overlap the jurisdiction of multiple federal agencies (e.g., HUD, DOL, DOE, etc.), ACF expects to make innovative approaches for the study of these issues in cooperation with them.

In the area of early learning, ACF is collaborating with NIH, ASPE, and the Department of Education, including participation in the interagency school readiness initiative to test comprehensive approaches to promoting readiness to learn as children approach school age.

ACF expects that a rich diversity of approaches and innovative funding mechanisms will most likely result in significant program improvements and efficiencies in conducting its RD&E activities in Fiscal Year 2006.