

## Foreword

“I am pleased to distribute the third issue of the Healthy Marriage Initiative Activities and Accomplishments publication. Envisioning the impact of the programs like these all across the country leads me to believe that the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Initiative may prove to be among the most important policy innovations that ACF has ever undertaken.

“Both elements of this new grant program address needs that resonate deeply within the American people. It is not a coincidence that this new initiative links marriage and fatherhood programs together. Marriage- the most enduring and important human institution- makes it much more likely that a father will be involved with his children on a regular basis and in a non-adversarial relationship with the mother providing for better outcomes for children. The institution of marriage serves the vital function of tying fathers to their children, while also tying mothers and fathers together for the sake of their children.

“The point is that the well-being of children- our chief goal- demands attention to both healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood.”

~Daniel Schneider, Acting Assistant  
Secretary, ACF, HHS