

Technical Assistance (TA) is a comprehensive set of consulting services that are available to help public and private entities succeed in strengthening marriages in their States or communities. These consulting services may include operational or management assistance given to aid in financial planning, program planning, information systems, legal advice, marketing and other aids to management. Assistance may be offered directly by an ACF staff member or contractor.

Primary areas of technical assistance that are available include:

- *Strategic Planning*: Identification of goals and objectives and development of plans of action;
- *Coalition Building*: Strategies for building coalitions with public and private partners and “how-to” guidance;
- *Marriage Education and Research Experts*: Meetings and consultations with marriage experts and program providers;
- *Service Capacity Building*: Strategies for building capacity at the State, local, and community level, including the capacity to deliver marriage education training;
- *Funding Information*: Identification of potential sources of funding, guidance about accessing key funding streams, and grant writing; and
- *Evaluation and Performance Measurement*: Development of performance measures and evaluation design options, assistance with local evaluation plans.

## **ACF Technical Assistance Support**

### **Service Providers**

ACF launched the initial technical assistance component of the HMI in the fall of 2002.

*National Healthy Marriage Resource Center (NHMRC)*. Funded by ACF the NHMRC is designed to serve as a first stop national repository and distribution center for information and research relating to healthy marriage for educators, practitioners, individuals and other interested entities. See <http://www.healthymarriageinfo.org>

*The Lewin Group. Technical Assistance for Individual Sites*. From 2002 to the spring of 2007, the Lewin Group, under contract to ACF, provided TA to healthy marriage programs. Lewin’s TA focuses on organizations that have been funded by ACF to conduct HMI activities. Lewin continues to provide Management Information Services to OCSE waiver projects. For more information on the technical assistance tool kit and links to materials, go to: [http://www.lewin.com/Spotlights/Features/Spotlight\\_Feature\\_CHMI.htm](http://www.lewin.com/Spotlights/Features/Spotlight_Feature_CHMI.htm)

*James Bell Associates, Inc.* JBA assists marriage projects funded through the Children’s Bureau. See [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/tech\\_assistance/index.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarriage/tech_assistance/index.html)

*Regional Healthy Marriage Specialists.* See <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/healthymarraige/pdf/Contacts-06.pdf> in conjunction with Federal Project Officers (FPOs) in Central Office.