Report to Congress

Assets for Independence Program

Status at the Conclusion of the Fifth Year

October 2005

Office of Community Services
Administration for Children and Families
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Executive Summary

The Assets for Independence (AFI) Program is a national demonstration effort that is supporting and studying the impacts of asset-building projects that feature Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). Congress authorized the program in 1998 to gauge the usefulness of IDAs and related asset-building strategies as tools to improve the social and economic prospects for very low-income American households. The Office of Community Services (OCS), in the Administration for Children and Families, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services administers the program. Congress appropriated funding at $10 million annually during fiscal years (FYs) 1999 and 2000 and $25 million a year from FYs 2001 through 2003.

The authorizing legislation, the Assets for Independence Act, enables OCS to award grants to nonprofit, community-based organizations and government agencies to conduct five-year projects that focus on Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). IDAs are savings accounts that enable low-income (and low-wealth) families and individuals to combine their own savings with matching public and private funds to purchase a first home, start up or expand a business, pay for college education or vocational training, or support an IDA owned by a dependent for the same purposes. AFI Projects can offer participant account holders match rates ranging from one dollar for every participant dollar saved to eight dollars for every participant dollar saved. Grantees work in partnership with the financial institutions that hold the participants' IDA accounts.

Since issuing the initial grants in FY 1999 through FY 2003, OCS has awarded more than $66 million in grant funding to about 180 nonprofit organizations nationwide. These grantees are administering 258 AFI Projects that have enabled participants to open more than 21,000 IDAs and regularly save earned income with the goal of purchasing a long-term asset. Each of the projects is supported by nonfederal funds in an amount equal to or greater than the Federal AFI grant.

This annual report is the fifth to Congress about the AFI Program. It describes cumulative program activity through September 2004 by projects that received awards in FYs 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 or 2003. It provides key findings on the AFI grantees, AFI account holders, and AFI Project characteristics. It also summarizes financial information regarding the AFI Project Reserve Account, and AFI deposits and withdrawals. The findings are based on reports submitted by the grantee organizations for 252 of the 258 projects for which OCS has issued grants.

This report also presents findings on the status of two special State-wide IDA projects under way in Pennsylvania and Indiana at the time AFI was established. Those States have received a combined total of $8.8 million and operate AFI Projects at 86 sites.

Short-Term Outcomes

Primary short-term program-wide outcomes include:

- Participants established 21,038 Individual Development Accounts in which they regularly deposited earned income;

- Participants saved a total of $14,556,177, and an average of $697 of earned income in their IDAs;

- Close to 4,400 participants used their savings and the IDA matching funds provided through AFI awards to purchase assets:

    - 1,750 withdrawals for first-time home purchase,
    - 1,322 withdrawals to start or expand small businesses,
    - 1,267 withdrawals for postsecondary education or training;

- Grantee organizations accessed and used a total of $27,054,259 in Federal grant funds;

- Grantees secured a total of $30,360,620 in nonfederal funds for matching participant savings and for program operations.

Grantee Organizations

Most AFI grantees operate their projects as a single agency that takes full responsibility for enrolling participants and managing all activities and Federal grant funds and nonfederal resources. About one-third use a multi-agency or “Network” model that includes one or more partners to enroll participants and provide services to them.

About one-third of the grantees are nonprofit Community Action Agencies, and one-fifth are Community Development Corporations. The remaining grantees are government agencies, faith-based organizations, United Way organizations, Tribal entities, and other private nonprofit organizations, such as credit unions and workforce development agencies. Partner agencies are of similar types.

The AFI grantees and the projects they administer are fairly evenly distributed across the nation. They are located in 46 States and the District of Columbia. A small number of grantees are administering multi-State or nation-wide projects.

Grantees turn to a wide range of government and non-government sources for financial support in addition to the AFI grant. Over half of the grantees have received funding from financial institutions. Other common sources of funding include foundations, State and local governments, housing authorities, and private businesses.

The program allows grantees to customize their project IDA account characteristics. Therefore, such features vary greatly among the AFI Projects. The most common match rate across all three withdrawal purposes was $2:1. The average minimum deposit required per month was $22. All Projects require participants to show regular savings patterns for at least six months before withdrawing any funds.

All AFI Projects may allow participants to save for any of three types of assets: a first home, capitalization of a small business, or postsecondary education. Most grantees allow participants to save for any of these three purposes, but some focus on only one or two purposes, such as housing or small business development. Grantees may also allow their participants to transfer their IDA savings to an IDA owned by a dependant to be used for the same purposes.

Financial Education and Support Services Offered by Grantees

AFI Projects provide basic financial education with a special focus on budgeting, responsible credit use, savings, investments, and taxes. AFI participants are required to attend an average of 13 hours of financial education before purchasing an asset.

Asset-specific training is another important aspect of most AFI Projects. This type of training is meant to ensure that participants are knowledgeable about purchasing and maintaining the asset they acquire. Home purchase and ownership training were offered by 86 percent of the projects. Training in micro-enterprise and academic counseling for AFI participants interested in pursuing a postsecondary education were offered by 70 percent of the projects.

Many grantees are community-based organizations that provide numerous support services to both their AFI participants and other clients. Some of these services are financial in nature, such as financial counseling, credit repair, loans, and emergency grants. About three-quarters of the grants offered their AFI Project participants counseling and credit repair services; almost half offered specialized or advanced financial education. Many grantees also provide more general support to the AFI participants. About half offered each of the following services: employment support, crisis management, peer support, child-care, and structured planning exercises. About a third offered transportation services to their AFI participants, and about a fifth offered medical (treatment) services.

Characteristics of Account Holders

The vast majority of participants who ever opened AFI accounts were female (78 percent). Slightly under half were African-American, and almost one-third were Caucasian. More than half of all accounts were opened by never-married individuals, and 22 percent were opened by single individuals who were either divorced or separated. Married people comprised about one quarter of all account holders. Over three quarters of participant account holders had children. The participant households with children were equally divided among those with one, two or three or more children.

Though account holders have a variety of education backgrounds, the vast majority (85 percent) had at least a high school diploma when they enrolled in an AFI Project, with many having education beyond the high school level, including some college or an associate’s degree. The largest share of all individuals who ever opened accounts, over one-third, was between the ages of 30 and 39 when they enrolled.

About half of all account holders reported that they had household incomes above 150 percent of the poverty level when they enrolled in the project, and almost one-third reported incomes between 100 and 150 percent of the poverty level. Just less than one quarter of participant account holders reported incomes below the poverty level at enrollment. About two thirds of the participant account holders were employed full time at enrollment, and another 20 percent were employed part time. Most participant account holders (81 percent) lived in urban areas when they enrolled, primarily in major urban areas.

For a large portion of AFI account holders, the IDA account was their first checking or savings account. Over one-third had never used a checking account prior to their enrollment in the AFI program, and about half had never held a prior savings account.

Project Reserve Accounts

The program requires grantees to deposit the Federal grant funds and at least an equal amount of nonfederal cash into secure bank accounts known as “Project Reserve Accounts.” The grantees may access only that portion of the Federal grant funds equal to the amount of nonfederal cash deposited into the account. The 226 projects that reported information about their Project Reserve Accounts indicated that they had drawn down and deposited a total of $27 million (47 percent of their Federal grants). The grant drawdown rate varies greatly. Over 40 percent have drawn down more than three quarters of their Federal grants, and 20 percent have drawn down none of their Federal funds.

Naturally, over time, grantees have drawn down growing percentages of their total grant awards. In the aggregate, the grantees that provided data for this report that received AFI grants in 1999 had drawn down 85 percent of their Federal grants by September 2004 (their fifth year of operation) and those that received grants in 2000 had drawn down 75 percent of their grants by that time (the end of their fourth year of operation). Reporting organizations that received grants in 2001 had drawn down 45 percent of their grants by September 2004 (end of third year), and those that received grants in 2002 had drawn down 40 percent (end of second year). By the end of their first year of operation, the reporting 2003 grantees had drawn down 23 percent of their AFI Program grants.

The nonfederal funds used for AFI Projects have exceeded the Federal funds by about 12 percent. Grantees reported that through September 2004, they deposited over $30 million of nonfederal funds in the project reserve accounts, compared to $27 million of Federal funds drawn down, representing about 54 percent of the projected amount of nonfederal funds over the life of the current awards.

Account Holder Deposits

From the beginning of the AFI Program through FY 2004, participants have opened 21,038 IDA accounts and have made gross deposits from earned income totaling $14.6 million. (Gross deposits are the cumulative sums deposited by participants.) Participants have deposited an average gross amount of $697. A total of 12,627 accounts were still open as of the end of FY 2004, with a total savings balance of $5.2 million. The average balance among these accounts is $533. Across more than half of all grants (54 percent) the average balance per account holder is less than $400. However, for more than one quarter of grants (28 percent) the average balance is over $600.

Withdrawals and Uses of IDA Savings

By the end of this reporting period, a total of 4,363 participants made qualified withdrawals of earned income from their IDA accounts, totaling approximately $5 million (averaging $1,156 per participant). Those making qualified withdrawals represented approximately one-fifth of those who ever opened accounts. Typically, the rate of withdrawals increases toward the end of the project period, so fewer withdrawals are expected from recently funded projects and more from those that received AFI grants in earlier years.

Withdrawals for home purchases were the largest both in number and in average dollar value. A total of 1,750 participants made withdrawals for home purchase, with an average of $1,409. A total of 1,322 participants had withdrawn funds for small business expenses, averaging $1,041. A total of 1,267 participants had withdrawn funds for postsecondary education, averaging $943.

AFI grantees match participant savings with equal amounts of Federal and nonfederal funds at ratios that range from $1 for each dollar the participant deposits to $8 for each dollar the participant deposits. Thus, in addition to accessing their own funds for qualified asset purchases, participants receive match funds when they make withdrawals to purchase qualified assets. Most grantee organizations offered the same match ratio for each withdrawal purpose, but 26 of them offered match ratios that differed according to use. The most common match ratio across all three allowed uses was $2 for every $1 deposited by participants: over half the projects offered this rate.

The match funds allow participants to obtain additional funds to support their purchase of a long-term asset. Participants who used their IDA funds for home purchase have accessed on average $4,346 (withdrawals plus Federal and nonfederal match funds). The average amount made available for small business expenses was $3,571, and the average for postsecondary education was $2,961.

Introduction

This report is an update on the status of the Assets for Independence (AFI) Program as of the end of Fiscal Year 2004. It includes two sub-sections: a narrative and an appendix. The narrative provides summary information about the status of the program overall, while the appendices display detailed information about the work of 252 of the 258 AFI Projects that received grants in FYs 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, or 2003.

The narrative is organized as follows:

Section 1 gives an overview of the AFI program;

Section 2 describes the organizations that are administering AFI Projects across the nation. It includes facts about the types of administrative arrangements used by these grantees and summary information about the many non-AFI funders that are contributing to this work. It also includes details about the Individual Development Accounts offered, staffing arrangements, and the various types of training and supportive services grantees provide to participants;

Section 3 provides information about project participants, that is, people who are enrolled in the AFI Projects and are saving earned income in their IDAs. It features demographic information and a synopsis of participants' past relationships with financial institutions such as banks and credit unions;

Section 4 includes facts about several required financial aspects of the AFI Program including the status of the grantees' Project Reserve Accounts and sources of nonfederal cash contributions. It also provides up-to-date information about participants' uses of their IDAs: the amounts saved and withdrawn, and the number and types of assets purchased;

Section 5 gives a brief update on the two special State-wide projects in Pennsylvania and Indiana;

Section 6 describes the AFI Resource Center and other training and technical assistance services that OCS makes available to grantees and their partners.

The Appendix is a series of data tables with detailed project-specific information. It includes 20 tables that highlight key aspects of each grantee and AFI Project including, for example, the amount of grant awarded for each project, participant demographic characteristics, amounts of Federal funds used and amounts of nonfederal cash contributions that grantees raised, and the types and frequency of training and supportive services provided by each project.

Scope of the Report

Consistent with the Assets for Independence Act requirements, OCS compiles annual reports for Congress based on data submitted by grantee agencies. The grantee reports provide data about seven specific topics, as follows:

- Number and characteristics of IDA account holders;
- Amounts deposited in IDAs;
- Amounts withdrawn from IDAs and the purposes for the withdrawals;
- Current IDA savings balances;
- IDA features that encourage people to participate;
- Balances and features of Project Reserve Accounts; and
- Support services available to participants.

Data Sources

The data provided by each AFI grantee organization comprise a "snapshot" of the AFI program as of the end of FY 2004. The data is cumulative, as it includes information provided by organizations on grants that began operations in FYs 1999 through 2003.[1]

The grantees are required to provide data on all activities undertaken and results accomplished through their AFI Projects as of the end of each Fiscal Year. Therefore, for this report, grantees that received funding in 1999 provided five years of data, while those that received funding in 2003 provided only one year of data. Grantees that had received more than one AFI grant provided separate reports for each grant, for a total of 252 responses.

Table 1.1 shows the number of AFI grants OCS awarded in each Fiscal Year and the response rate for each group of grantees. A total of 252 sets of data were received, covering 98 percent of all AFI grants awarded and representing 180 recipient organizations.

[1] Unless otherwise noted, throughout this report, when we refer to number or percentages as "grantees that responded," we are referring to the number or percentages of grantee organizations that responded to a particular question. The unit of analysis is the AFI Project. Each grantee is awarded one grant to administer one AFI Project. Organizations that receive multiple grants are administering multiple AFI Projects. Those organizations submitted data separately for each of their projects.

Table 1.1 Project Grants Awarded and Data Received

Grant Year	Data Received		
	Data Forms Received	Grants Awarded	Response Rate
1999	38	38	100%
2000	25	25	100%
2001	79	82	96%
2002	65	67	97%
2003	45	46	100%
Total	252	258	98%

Note: Response forms were also received from the two State-wide grantees: Indiana and Pennsylvania.

Not every grantee provided all the data requested. Thus, in each table in this report, we show the number of grants that provided usable data for the particular analysis.

This annual data report is not a component of the OCS-supported national AFI Program evaluation currently under way. Information being developed through the national evaluation includes, for example, detailed descriptions of strategies AFI grantees are using to implement their projects, analyses of common challenges faced by grantees and project participants, highlights of effective practices, and suggestions for improving performance. The evaluation is also producing information about the impact of IDA accounts on project participants and their families. The two types of studies complement each other and are necessary for a full understanding of the impact of a large-scale asset-development initiative, such as this demonstration, and of the most efficient ways to implement such efforts.

1. Assets for Independence Program

Program Overview

The Assets for Independence Program is a multi-site national demonstration administered by the Office of Community Services (OCS) within the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Established by the Assets for Independence Act under Title IV of the Community Opportunities, Accountability, and Training and Educational Services Act of 1998 (the "Act," Public Law 105–285), the demonstration is developing information and knowledge about the extent to which asset-building projects that feature Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), intensive financial education, and related asset-based strategies make a positive difference in helping low-income families and individuals move from dependency to economic self-sufficiency.

IDAs are bank accounts that are designed specifically to enable low-income working persons to: first, save a portion of their earnings; and second, use their savings, along with matching public and private funds, to acquire a substantial economic asset such as a first home, higher education or training, equity in a new or existing small business, or to support an IDA owned by a dependent. Every dollar a project participant saves in his or her IDA account is matched by the AFI Project. The matching rate is determined by the administering grantee and may be from $1 for every $1 saved to as high as $8 for every $1 saved by the participant.

The Act authorizes OCS to administer two aspects of the demonstration: project funding and an intensive process and outcome evaluation. In keeping with this authority, OCS administers grants to qualified nonprofit organizations (or State, local, or Native American agencies or organizations that partner with a nonprofit organization) to conduct five-year asset-building projects as part of a national demonstration. The Office also oversees a national program evaluation designed to develop knowledge about both the process of administering these projects and also the effects IDAs have on Project participants.

Congress authorized up to $25 million for FYs 1999-2003. Congress appropriated $10 million for each of FYs 1999 and 2000, and $25 million for each of FYs 2001, 2002 and 2003.

As of the end of the reporting period for this update (the end of FY 2004), OCS had awarded $66,340,417 to nonprofit organizations and State and local government agencies to administer 258 local AFI Projects. To date, the projects have enabled more than 21,000 participants to save earned income in IDAs. Because each AFI Project has a five-year grant period, those initiated in

FY 1999 were active through the end of FY 2004. Those that were initially funded in FY 2000 will be active through FY 2005, and so forth.

Design of AFI Projects

The AFI grants range from the maximum of $1,000,000 to a low of $12,000, with an average amount of $350,000. All projects are financed in part with an AFI grant and in part with nonfederal cash assistance. The law requires all grantees to provide nonfederal funding in an amount as large as the AFI grant award, and grantees must deposit their nonfederal cash contribution into their Project Reserve Account before drawing down the Federal grant funds. A number of grantee organizations are administering multiple AFI Projects simultaneously.

OCS encourages grantee organizations to customize their projects in keeping with local needs and opportunities. Typical project components are listed below, in the order in which they are most often conducted. Individual grantees may devote varying levels of effort to these components, depending on their participants' needs and the availability of additional funding from other sources to support those needs. Virtually all AFI Projects contain these programmatic components:

> ***Data collection and management*** for project management and the national evaluation;
>
> ***Strong partnerships with nonfederal funders*** that provide at least 50 percent of funds and other resources needed for administering AFI Projects;
>
> ***Working relationships with financial institutions*** that house the Project Reserve Account and participants' Individual Development Accounts;
>
> ***Marketing and recruitment*** to inform the community about the AFI Project and encourage families to enroll;
>
> ***Periodic project orientations*** for informing potential participants about the AFI Project and its policies and procedures;
>
> ***Participant eligibility procedures*** to determine whether the applicant meets the Federal eligibility requirements and any additional criteria established by other funding organizations and the grantee;
>
> ***Participant savings plan agreements*** with each project participant that specify key points and responsibilities such as the participant's savings goal(s), deposit schedule, the savings match rate, intended use(s), and training requirements;
>
> ***Financial education*** for all participants over a number of weeks or months;

Asset-specific training for participants related to the type of asset that the participant intends to purchase, such as homeownership training, entrepreneurial training or assistance, or career counseling for those pursuing postsecondary education; and

Case management throughout the savings period***,*** which may or may not include credit counseling, tax preparation, claiming Earned Income Tax Credits and other refundable tax credits, as well as employment counseling, childcare, family counseling or other services either directly or through partner organizations.

Legislative Requirements

The Act includes several requirements about project administration and eligibility. All grantees must design and administer their projects in keeping with these requirements:

Participant Eligibility **–** Individuals may participate in an AFI Project if they are *either* eligible for assistance under a State's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, *or* if they meet the following requirements: the net worth of their household is less than $10,000 (excluding the value of a primary dwelling and one motor vehicle); *and* they either are eligible for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit *or* they have an annual household income below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level;

Regular Deposits **–** Participants must regularly deposit earned income into their Individual Development Account;

Uses of IDA Balances **–** Project participants may use their accumulated IDA savings plus the matching funds to purchase a first home, capitalize or expand a small business, or purchase postsecondary education or training. They may also use their IDA resources to support a family member's or other dependent's savings for any of the three allowed assets. If they use the account balance for another purpose, they forfeit the Federal and nonfederal matching funds;

Nonfederal Funds **–** Grantee project budgets must include nonfederal cash resources in an amount at least as large as their AFI Project grant;

Project Reserve Account **–** Grantee organizations must maintain a Project Reserve Account to hold the Federal grant and the required nonfederal funds. Grantees disperse the Federal and nonfederal funds to match participants' IDA savings from the Project Reserve Account when the participants use their IDA savings to make a qualified purchase. They also use amounts in the Project Reserve Account to support project activities;

Participant IDA Matching Rate **–** Grantee organizations may establish match rates for participant IDAs ranging from $1 to $8 per each dollar saved by the participant; and

Uses of Federal Grant Funds **–** Grantee organizations must use at least 85 percent of the Federal grant funds and nonfederal cash contributions to match participant IDA savings. Grantees must budget at least two percent for data collection and expenses related to the national program evaluation. They may use no more than 13 percent of the Federal grant funds for all other activities, including, for example, program administration, participant outreach, financial education and credit counseling, and other services for participants.

2. AFI Grants and Projects

This section presents information about AFI grants awarded, the grantee organizations and agencies, and the AFI Projects they administer across the nation.

Grantee Organizations and Grant Amounts

OCS awards AFI grants to not-for-profit organizations and State, local or Tribal governments that partner with nonprofit groups. Other eligible organizations include “low income” credit unions so certified by the National Credit Union Administration or Community Development Financial Institutions so designated by the Treasury Department that are collaborating with a community anti-poverty organization.

The AFI Grants are for five-year project periods, and they may be in an amount up to $1,000,000 for the period. To date, the grant amounts have ranged from a high of $1,000,000 to a low of $12,000. The average amount is $350,000. Grantee organizations are required to provide an amount of nonfederal cash resources for their project in an amount as least as large as the AFI grant award.

In the first five years of the program, OCS awarded a total of $66,340,417 to 180 grantee organizations. The grantees are managing 258 AFI Projects in 46 States and the District of Columbia. Appendix A is a comprehensive list of grantee organizations including their grant amounts and the year(s) they received grants to support their asset-building projects.

As shown on Table 2.1 on the next page, OCS awarded varying numbers of competitive grants and amounts each year.

Table 2.1 Number of Grants and Dollar Amounts Awarded per Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Number of Grants Awarded	Dollar Amount of Grants Awarded
1999	38	$9,695,904
2000	25	$4,554,620
2001	82	$21,266,474
2002	67	$16,654,539
2003	46	$14,168,880
Total	258	$66,340,417

In addition to these competitive grants, OCS awarded special grants for State-wide projects in Pennsylvania and Indiana, as required in the authorizing legislation. Between FYs 1999 and 2003, OCS awarded $4.7 million for the State-wide effort in Pennsylvania and $4.1 for the project in Indiana. Section Six of this narrative offers more information about these projects.

Several grantee organizations have received multiple AFI grants. Table 2.2 shows the original and additional amounts awarded to grantees, by the year they received their first grant. For example, approximately 52 percent of organizations that received grants in FY 2002 (35 of 67 grantees) also received AFI grants in previous years. Similarly, 48 percent that received grants in FY 2003 (22 of 46 grantees) were administering projects funded with grants awarded previously.

Table 2.2 Number of Grants and Cumulative Amounts Awarded 1999 – 2003

Year Grantee Received Initial Award	FY 1999 Grant Amounts and Number of Grantees		FY 2000 Grant Amounts and Number of Grantees		FY 2001 Grant Amounts and Number of Grantees		FY 2002 Grant Amounts and Number of Grantees		FY 2003 Grant Amounts and Number of Grantees		Cumulative Amounts Awarded to Prior Grantees
	Grant Amounts	#	Grant Amounts	#	Grant Amounts	#	Grant Amounts	#	Grant Amounts	#	
1999	$9,695,904	38	--	--	$4,241,829	13	$4,996,936	13	$1,279,424	5	$20,214,093
2000	--	--	$4,554,620	25	$2,777,794	8	$1,454,511	6	$297,058	3	$9,0083,983
2001	--	--	--	--	$14,426,851	61	$3,509,120	16	$1,747,999	10	$19,503,970
2002	--	--	--	--	--	--	$6,693,539	32	$321,470	4	$7,015,442
2003	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	$10,522,929	24	$10,422,929
Total	**$9,695,904**	**38**	**$4,554,620**	**25**	**$21,266,474**	**82**	**$16,654,539**	**67**	**$14,168,680**	**46**	**$66,340,417**

*2000 revision amounts for 1999 grantees are included in Year 1 amount.

(These numbers do not include the Indiana and Pennsylvania State grants, but they include all of the other grantees – regardless of whether they reported for this study.)

Administrative Arrangements

Grantees choose to use different types of administrative arrangements for their AFI Projects. Many collaborate and partner with related organizations, government agencies and others. Every grantee works closely with one or more nonfederal funders that contribute resources to supplement the AFI grant funds. They also work with financial institutions where the Project Reserve Account and participant IDAs are held on deposit. This section provides more details about the administrative framework used by AFI grantees.

Single Agency and Network Projects

As of the end of FY 2004, a total of 63 percent of grantee organizations operated AFI Projects independently, without any formal collaboration with other organizations other than financial institutions. As such, they took full responsibility for enrolling participants, opening their IDAs, providing supportive services for them, and managing all Federal funds and nonfederal resources. These grantees sometimes partnered with other agencies for discrete services, such as training or data management.

The remaining 37 percent of grantees established formal partnerships or collaborative arrangements with other organizations for recruiting and enrolling participants and otherwise implementing the AFI Project. OCS refers to these types of projects as AFI Networks. The typical AFI Network included the grantee organization, which was responsible for the grant itself, and several partners. The number of partners ranged from one to 16, with an average of six. Many collaborating organizations involved in an AFI Network provided support for key components of the overall project, such as recruitment, financial education, asset-specific training, home mortgage assistance, case management, and other services for participants.

Each network is managed slightly differently from others, so the precise roles and responsibilities of the grantee or “lead” agency also varied. Approximately 59 percent of the lead agencies offered direct services to project participants; they had staff that performed outreach, screened, enrolled and worked with participants to open their IDA accounts. The remaining 41 percent of network grantees did not work directly with participants. Rather, they focused on overall project administration and relied on the partner organizations to recruit, enroll and provide direct services to participants. Examples of networks are the Associations of Community Action Agencies in Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota; and Community Development Associations in Ohio and South Carolina. There are other networks made up of various agency types.

Table 2.3 shows some aspects of operating an AFI Network and the percentage of network projects where the lead agency shared the responsibility with other organizations. In over half the Network projects, the lead agencies and the partners shared duties of raising nonfederal cash for the project. In nearly one-third of network projects, the partner agencies worked with the grantee agency to maintain documentation and records. However, the grantee agencies in only 11 percent of these projects allowed their partners to assist with managing the Project Reserve Account.

Table 2.3 Shared Roles and Functions in AFI Networks

Major Function	Percent of AFI Networks Where the Grantee Agency Shares the Function with Partners
Raise Nonfederal Cash for the Project	53%
Open IDA Accounts with Participants	41%
Maintain Documentation and Records of Reporting and Evaluation Purposes	31%
Manage the Project Reserve Account	11%

This chart is based on information provided by 88 grantee organizations that are implementing AFI Networks with 542 partnering organizations.

Types of Grantees and Partners

As shown on Table 2.4, nearly 50 percent of AFI grantees – whether managing a single agency project or a network project – are Community Action Agencies (CAAs) or Community Development Corporations (CDCs). Other grantee types include other nonprofit organizations, Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), credit unions, faith-based organizations, local United Ways, and State and local government agencies.

Over the past three years, there has been a slight increase in the proportion of grantees that are CAAs, and a greater decrease in the proportion that are CDCs, local United Ways, and government agencies. Please note that these data reflect only the number of each *type* of grantee organization, not the amount of grant awards they are administering.

The 88 grantees that are managing AFI Networks are working with a total of 542 partner organizations to implement their projects. These partner organizations include many of the same types of organizations that manage single-agency projects. As of the end of FY 2004, 33 percent were CAAs, 20 percent were CDCs, and 13 percent were social service nonprofit organizations.

Table 2.4 Grantee Types

Type of AFI Grantee Organization	Proportion of AFI Grantees as of the End of FY 2002	Proportion of AFI Grantees as of the End of FY 2003	Proportion of AFI Grantees as of the End of FY 2004
Community Action Agency	30%	32%	32%
Community Development Corporation	26%	25%	17%
Social Service Nonprofit	--	--	11%
Faith-Based Organization	9%	9%	8%
Community Development Financial Institution / Credit Unions	--	--	6%
Local United Way	9%	8%	5%
Government Agency	9%	8%	5%
Micro-Enterprise Developer	--	--	4%
Other	17%	18%	12%
Number of Grants Reporting	*103*	*130*	*160*

OCS added three new grantee categories not included in prior years: "Social Service Nonprofit," "Community Development Financial Institution," and "Micro-Enterprise Developer."

Funding Sources

Organizations that administer AFI Projects turn to a wide range of sources beyond their AFI grant to finance their asset-building work. All AFI grantees are required to have nonfederal cash resources in an amount at least equal to their Federal grant funds. Most grantee organizations reported that it is also necessary to secure a significant amount of additional funds (whether federal or nonfederal), in order to provide the intensive support their participants need to succeed with their IDA savings plans and to cover the actual costs of administering an AFI Project. Sources included financial institutions, foundations, businesses, individuals, educational institutions, and faith-based organizations. Government sources included certain programs administered by the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), local and State government agencies, and local and State tax credits.

The most common sources of funding, and whether the funds are used toward match money or operating costs, are shown below in Table 2.5. Over half of the organizations that are administering AFI Projects received funding from financial institutions.

Table 2.5 Sources of Non-AFI Funding for Match and Operations

Type of Non-AFI Funder	Proportion of Grantees that Received Funding for Matching Participant Savings	Proportion of Grantees that Received Funding for Program Operations
Financial Institutions	51%	41%
Foundations	23%	22%
Local Government / Local Housing Authorities	20%	16%
State Government	19%	15%
Businesses	19%	19%
Federal Home Loan Bank	15%	4%
Individuals	15%	16%
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Community Development Block Grant and others)	7%	17%
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Community Services Block Grant)	--	12%

IDA Account Characteristics

Match Rates

Grantees may offer IDA savings match rates from $1 in match for each $1 of earned income saved ($1:$1) to $8 in match for each $1 of earned income saved ($8:$1). The most common match rate was $2:$1. Table 2.6 shows the distribution of asset goals among AFI Projects and the match rates they offer for them. Most AFI Projects offered a single match rate to participants regardless of their savings goal, while 26 grantees offered differing match rates depending on the asset goal. Projects with varying match rates are listed as having “varied rate” on the table.

Table 2.6 IDA Savings Match Rates Offered

Savings Match Rate	Home Purchase	Small Business	Education
$1:$1	8%	9%	11%
$2:$1	57%	60%	58%
$3:$1	18%	12%	12%
$4:$1	11%	7%	6%
$5:$1	1%	0%	1%
$8:$1	0%	0%	1%
Other rates	2%	2%	2%
Varied rates	3%	10%	9%
Number of Projects Reporting	*209*	*199*	*203*

Match Levels and Deposit Requirements

Table 2.7 provides details about AFI Project savings and match characteristics. The maximum participant savings amount varied from project to project and ranged from a low of $360 to a high of $4,800. The average was $1,648. For many projects, the maximum varied with the participant’s asset goal. For some Network projects, these factors varied by project site.

Table 2.7 AFI IDA Accounts: Savings and Match Characteristics

Savings and Match Characteristic	Number of AFI Projects Reporting*	Mean	Range	Number of AFI Projects with Varying Characteristics
Maximum amount of IDA savings matched	198	$1,648	$360 to $4,800	29
Minimum initial deposit	200	$22	0 to $125	27
Minimum monthly deposit	171	$22	0 to $125	30
Number of missed deposits allowed	164	3	0 to 12	60

*Does not include those who indicate a varying amount or number.

As also shown on Table 2.7, requirements concerning other features of IDA accounts also varied among projects. Variables include the minimum opening deposit, the number, amount and frequency of regular deposits required, and the number of missed deposits allowed. The minimum opening deposit amounts ranged from zero to $125, with an average of $22. The average of amounts of monthly required deposits also ranged from zero to $125, with an average of $22. Over half (57 percent) of AFI Projects require minimum monthly deposits from $20 - $30. In addition, 30 projects had varying deposit requirements, depending on the participant's savings goal or other factors. Finally, the number of missed deposits allowed ranged from zero to 12, with an average of three.

Project Staffing

Through FY 2004, AFI grantees and their partners (for AFI Network projects) used an average of 71 staff hours per week [1.78 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff] to manage their AFI Project. This number of staff typically increased in proportion to the number of participants served. As can be seen in Table 2.8, grantees with smaller AFI Projects, with fewer than 25 participants, employed about 0.74 FTE to manage the project. Grantees whose AFI Projects had 150 or more participants required almost 4.0 FTE to maintain their project. Grantees that were initiating projects required almost as much staff time as programs with a small number of participants, even before they actually enrolled any participants (0.71 FTE as compared to 0.74 FTE). Appendix B provides detailed information about staffing, including hours worked by employees and contributions by AmeriCorps workers and volunteers.

Table 2.8 Staffing: Average Number of Employees

Number of AFI IDA Account Holders	Average Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees
0	0.71
1 to 24	0.74
25 to 74	1.47
75 to 149	2.14
150 or more	3.91
Overall	1.78
Number of Grants Reporting	*230*

This table reflects the number of FTE for lead and partner agencies combined.

Training for Participants

Financial Education

The AFI Act requires all AFI Projects to provide financial education for participants. These courses typically cover a number of core topics, such as budgeting, saving, credit use, investments and taxes. OCS does not require a specific curriculum. Some grantees developed their own financial education curriculum, while most used curricula developed by other organizations, such as “Money Smart” provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

As shown on Table 2.9, the duration of the basic financial education ranged from 2 hours to 33 hours, averaging 12.6 hours per course. As of this reporting period, over two-thirds (67 percent) of all participants completed the general financial education provided by AFI Projects. Appendix C presents details about the financial education provided.

Asset-Specific Training

In addition to the general financial education, many AFI Projects also choose to offer specialized training that is specific to participants’ intended asset goals. This asset-specific training is designed to ensure that participants know how to purchase an asset and maintain it after the purchase.

Through FY 2004, 86 percent of AFI Projects reported that they offered asset-specific training for home purchase and ownership. The length of these courses ranged up to 34 hours, averaging 8.9 hours per course. Almost half (45 percent) of all participants saving for a home completed this special training.

Upwards of 70 percent of AFI Projects offered specialized training in micro-enterprise development. The length these courses ranged up to 77 hours, averaging 13.5 hours per course. Almost 75 percent of all participants saving to start a business completed this type of training.

Approximately 70 percent of AFI Projects also offer training or counseling for participants who are saving to pursue postsecondary education. The duration of the courses or counseling for this purpose ranged up to 35 hours, averaging 5.8 hours per course. Almost half (49 percent) of all participants saving for higher education completed this special training.

Table 2.9 displays this information. Please see Appendix D for more details. The appendix table lists types of asset-specific training provided by each project.

Table 2.9 Training Provided and Percent of Participants Completing Training

Type of Training Provided – General and Asset-Specific*	Percent of AFI Projects Offering	Minimum Hours of Training Required	Maximum Hours of Training Required	Average Hours of Training Required (n)	Percent of Participants Who Have Completed Training (n)
General Financial Education	100%	2 hours	33 hours	12.6 (223)	67% (217)
Asset-Specific: Home Purchase	86%	0 hours	34 hours	8.9 (203)	45% (178)
Asset Specific: Small Business	70%	0 hours	77 hours	13.5 (175)	75% (165)
Asset-Specific: Education	70%	0 hours	35 hours	5.8 (165)	49% (157)

* Among those intending to use their IDA resources for the corresponding purpose.

Other Support Services Offered for Participants

AFI Projects provide an array of support services to their participants independently or with partners or collaborating organizations. As indicated earlier in this report, many grantees are community-based organizations that provide numerous support services to their clients, including AFI Project participants. Some of these services are financial in nature, such as financial counseling, credit repair, and loans. Others are more general, such as employment support, child care, transportation, medical care, crisis management, structured planning exercises, mentoring, and peer support.

As shown in Table 2.10, as of the end of FY 2004, 76 percent of AFI Projects provided counseling and 74 percent provided credit repair services for participants. Upwards of 49 percent provided specialized or advanced financial education courses. A smaller percentage offered services such as loans or cash assistance. Furthermore, more than 50 percent offer general support services, such as crisis management, peer support, employment support, and child care. Slightly less than 50 percent provided mentoring services or structured planning exercises for AFI participants. Fewer than 30 percent provide transportation or medical services for them.

Table 2.10 Services Provided to Participants

Type of Services Provided	Through FY 2002	Through FY 2003	Through FY 2004
Financial Information and Intervention Services			
Counseling	86%	89%	76%
Credit Repair	84%	84%	74%
Advanced Financial Education	--	--	49%
Loans	38%	36%	39%
Cash	17%	15%	17%
Other	--	--	19%
General Support Services			
Employment Support	71%	66%	52%
Crisis Management	66%	68%	55%
Peer Support	61%	63%	53%
Child Care	64%	62%	52%
Structured Planning Exercises	61%	63%	46%
Transportation	39%	37%	30%
Medical (treatment)	21%	18%	21%
Mentoring	51%	54%	47%
Other	--	--	21%
Number of Grants Reporting	--	--	233

Note: OCS amended the FY 2004 reporting form by adding the "Advanced Financial Education" and "other" categories. Data on these categories were not collected in prior years.

As shown on Table 2.11, of those offering the financial intervention service, most offer it directly, rather than through an arrangement with a partner organization. Further, of those offering any of these supportive services, most offer them directly and many also provide them through partners or other outsource mechanisms.

Table 2.11 Proportion of Services Provided by Grantees and Others

Type of Services Provided	Proportion of Grantees that Provide the Services "In House"	Proportion of Grantees Where Other Agencies Provide the Services
Financial Information and Intervention Services		
Counseling	92%	61%
Credit Repair	77%	76%
Advanced Financial Education	91%	48%
Loans	74%	67%
Cash	87%	46%
Other	93%	29%
General Support Services		
Employment Support	83%	68%
Crisis Management	89%	63%
Peer Support	95%	46%
Child Care	79%	54%
Structured Planning Exercises	93%	51%
Transportation	81%	51%
Medical (treatment)	49%	55%
Mentoring	95%	53%
Other	100%	16%
Number of Grants Reporting	233	

Notes: These two service delivery delivery categories are not mutually exclusive. That is, many projects provide services both "in house" and also through arrangements with outside organizations or partners. Therefore, the proportions listed in the two categories total more than 100%.

3. Project Participants

As outlined in the Introduction to this report, the Assets for Independence Act establishes a number of parameters within which all AFI Projects must be administered. Among the most important is participant eligibility. The law authorizes grantees to enroll only low-income individuals with earned income. It is limited to those whose household income is no more than 200% of poverty and whose net worth is less than $10,000, (not counting the value of an automobile and a home) at time of enrollment. Members of households currently eligible for assistance from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit are also eligible. The law also encourages Projects to serve families with children, in particular.

The following pages provide cumulative information about individuals who have participated in the AFI Program since its inception. The report highlights details about their prior history and relations with mainstream financial institutions.

Number of Account Holders

The number of individuals who enrolled in AFI Projects and opened an IDA has accelerated annually over the past three years. As can be seen in Table 3.1, by the end of the third year of the demonstration a total of 7,813 accounts had been opened. By the end of the fourth year, this number increased to 12,252; and as of the end of the fifth year, project participants had opened a total of 21,038 IDAs. Appendix E provides project-by-project information.

Table 3.1 Number of IDA Accounts Opened Since Program Inception

Grant Year	Number of IDA Accounts Opened by End of FY 2002	Number of IDA Accounts Opened by End of FY 2003	Number of IDA Accounts Opened by End of FY 2004
1999	4,722	6,110	7,576
2000	1,373	1,955	2,827
2001	1,718	3,255	6,425
2002	--	932	3,153
2003	--	--	1,057
Overall	7,813	12,252	21,038
Number of Grants Reporting	*117*	*169*	*231*

Path from Orientation to Account Opening

The number of individuals and families who participate in AFI Projects is greater than the number who open accounts and eventually purchase a long term asset. The typical project includes four steps to opening an IDA. First, prospective participants attend an orientation session about the program to learn about the benefits of and strategies for saving regularly, whether they participate in IDA or not. Second, they submit an application for participation, including proof of eligibility. Next, they enroll. Finally, they attend financial education courses and open their IDA.

A total of 211 grantees provided detailed information about the numbers of individuals involved in each successive step of the process. Those grantees reported that slightly more than 71,000 individuals attended an orientation session to learn more about the AFI Project by the end of FY 2004. Of those who attended the orientation, about 28,990 (41 percent) submitted an application to participate and 21,677 (31 percent) enrolled. Finally, a total of 18,651 (26 percent of the number who attended the orientation) eventually opened an IDA account. Table 3.2 displays this information.

Table 3.2 Path from Orientation to Account Opening

Activity	Number of Individuals	Percent of Those Attending Orientation
Attended information session	71,009	100%
Submitted an application	28,990	41%
Enrolled in project	21,677	31%
Opened an account	18,651	26%
Number of Grants Reporting	*211*	

Characteristics of Participant Account Holders

The following pages provide demographic information about project participants who enrolled and opened an IDA account. These characteristics were calculated based on the cumulative number of accounts opened since the program started in FY 1999. The tabulations also include information about participants whose IDA accounts have been closed, either because they successfully saved and purchased an asset, or because they used their savings for another purpose and dropped out of the project.

Please note that data amounts presented in some of the charts do not add up to 100 percent. This is due in part to rounding and also due to the fact that all grantees did not provide data for each topic. Each table or chart includes the number of grantees that provided data for the given topic.

Gender

The typical account holder is female. More than three-fourths (78 percent) of accounts have been opened by women. Table 3.3 displays summary information about the gender of account holders. Appendix F provides additional details.

Table 3.3 Gender of Account Holders

Gender	Proportion of Account Holders at the End of FY 2002	Proportion of Account Holders at the End of FY 2003	Proportion of Account Holders at the End of FY 2004
Female	81%	78%	78%
Male	19%	22%	22%
Number of Grants Reporting	*113*	*161*	*231*

Race/Ethnicity

African Americans have opened slightly less than half of all AFI IDA accounts established since the beginning of the program. Caucasians opened upwards of 28 percent. The percentage of Hispanic account holders has increased steadily over the past three years. Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, and those of other ethnicities opened a combined 10 percent of all IDA accounts. See Table 3.4 summarizes the racial and ethnic distribution. See Appendix G for project-by-project information on this topic.

Table 3.4 Race/Ethnicity of Account Holders

Racial or Ethnic Group	Proportion of Account Holders at the end of FY 2002	Proportion of Account Holders at the end of FY 2003	Proportion of Account Holders at the end of FY 2004
African American	48%	47%	46%
Caucasian	33%	32%	28%
Hispanic	13%	14%	16%
Asian / Pacific Islander	--	--	6%
Native American	--	--	1%
Other	7%	7%	3%
Number of Grants Reporting	*113*	*160*	*234*

OCS added several additional racial and ethnic group descriptors to the FY 2004 reporting form. Those indicated with dashes were not included in previous data collections.

Marital Status

Table 3.5 summarizes the distribution of marital status for participants who had ever opened an AFI IDA. As of the most recent reporting period, 54 percent of all IDAs were owned by single people. Upwards of 77 percent of those who had opened an IDA indicated that, at the time of enrollment, they were separated, divorced, widowed, or never married. Approximately 23 percent indicated that they were married. Appendix Table H provides project-level data on this topic.

Table 3.5 Marital Status of Account Holders

Marital Status of Project Participants	Proportion of Account Holders at the end of FY 2002	Proportion of Account Holders at the end of FY 2003	Proportion of Account Holders at the end of FY 2004
Single, Never Married	55%	53%	54%
Married	22%	23%	23%
Divorced	15%	17%	16%
Separated	7%	6%	6%
Widowed	1%	1%	1%
Number of Grants Reporting	*113*	*158*	*232*

Household Composition

There are two elements of household composition: the number of adults (Table 3.6) and the number of children (Table 3.7). At the end of FY 2004, 60 percent of account holders were members of households with just one adult (including the account holder) and very few account holders (less than 10 percent) were members of households with three or more adults. See Appendix G for project-by-project data.

Table 3.6 Number of Adults in Account Holder Household at Time of Enrollment

Number of Adult Household Members	Proportion of Account Holders at the End of FY 2002	Proportion of Account Holders at the End of FY 2003	Proportion of Account Holders at the End of FY 2004
1	28	26	60
2	27	28	31
3	20	21	6
4 or more	24	25	3
Number of Grants Reporting	*111*	*157*	*227*

Table 3.7 shows the distribution of account holders whose households included children. The number of households with one child, two children, and three or more children is roughly equal (at about 27 percent). A slightly lower number (21 percent) of account holders are members of households with no children at all. Appendix H provides more information on this data element.

Table 3.7 Number of Children in Household at Time of Enrollment

Number of Children in Household	Proportion of Account Holders at the end of FY 2004
0	21
1	27
2	27
3	16

4 or more	10
Number of Grants Reporting	*228*

Note: Due to changes in the FY 2004 reporting form, it is not possible to show trends across years.

Household Income

The AFI Program is tailored to support low-income individuals and families, as is evident from the project eligibility criteria outlined at the beginning of this section. Table 3.8 displays the cumulative ratio of household income to the poverty level for account holders at time of enrollment for those who have participated in the program since FY 1999. It shows that approximately half of all IDA account holders had household incomes at enrollment of about 150 percent of the Federal poverty line. Those who reported incomes below the poverty line account for about 22 percent of all account holders. About 30 percent reported incomes between 100 and 150 percent of poverty. Over the course of the program, the proportion of participant account holders has shifted gradually from lower-income individuals and families to slightly higher income participants, though still well within the required guidelines. As of the end of FY 2002, about 36 percent of account holders had reported incomes above 150 percent of poverty; at the end of FY 2003, that number was about 40 percent. The more recent data, cumulative through FY 2004, shows that 48 percent of all account holders had incomes in this category. Conversely, the total percentage of account holders who reported below-poverty household incomes had fallen nearly 19 percent between FY 2002 and FY 2004. Appendix K includes more details on this topic.

Table 3.8 Household Income Reported at Time of Enrollment

Participant's Household Income Range	Proportion of Participants at the end of FY 2002	Proportion of Participants at the end of FY 2003	Proportion of Participants at the end of FY 2004
Below Poverty	35%	30%	22%
100-150% of Poverty	29%	30%	29%
151-200% of Poverty	36%	40%	40%
Greater than 200% of Poverty	--	--	8%
Number of Grants Reporting	*111*	*150*	*222*

Residence

The largest group of account holders, 45 percent, reported that, at the time of enrollment, they lived in major urban areas. The smallest group, 19 percent, reported that they lived in rural or remote areas. Appendix Table L presents project-by-project data on this characteristic.

Table 3.9 Residence of Account Holders at Time of Enrollment

Residence of IDA Account Holder	Proportion of Account Holders
Major Urban Area	45%
Minor Urban Area	36%
Rural or Remote Area	19%
Number of Grants Reporting	*230*

This data is based on reports from 230 AFI Projects serving 20,038 account holders. OCS adjusted this question on the FY 2004 data reporting form. Therefore, it is not possible to present trend data over past years. A "major urban area" is a metropolitan statistical area with a population greater than 1,000,000. A "minor urban area" is one with a population between 500,000 and 999,999.

Education

Participant account holders vary widely in their educational backgrounds. Nearly all have at least a high school diploma (almost 85 percent), with many (56 percent) having obtained education beyond the high school level. Since the beginning of the program about one-third of participants have reported that they have attended college (34 to 35 percent), and more than (22 percent) reported that they have completed an associate's degree or higher. Table 3.10 provides this information. Project-level details are displayed in Appendix M.

Table 3.10 Participant Educational Credentials at Time of Enrollment

Educational Credential	Proportion of Participants with Credentials at the End of FY 2002	Proportion of Participants with Credentials at the End of FY 2003	Proportion of Participants with Credentials at the End of FY 2004
No High School Diploma	12%	13%	15%
High School Diploma / Vocational School Certificate	34%	29%	29%
Some College	35%	35%	34%
Associate's Degree	8%	10%	8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	11%	13%	14%
Number of Grants Reporting	*113*	*157*	*228*

Age

Slightly more than one-third of all IDA account holders were between 30 to 39 years of age with roughly equal portions of account holdes in their 20s or their 40s. Account holders age 19 or under represent less than 4 percent of all individuals with AFI IDA accounts. Only 9 percent of account holders were 50 years or older. Summary information about participant age is shown on Table 3.11. Appendix Table N presents details on this topic.

Table 3.11 Age of Account Holders at Time of Enrollment

Participant Age Range	Proportion of Participants at the End of FY 2004
19 and younger	3%
20 - 29 years	26%
30 - 39 years	37%
40 - 49 years	24%
50 years or older	9%
Number of Grants Reporting	*233*

OCS adjusted this question on the FY 2004 data reporting form. Therefore, it is not possible to present trend data over past years.

Employment Status

As shown on Table 3.12, as of the end of FY 2004, almost 85 percent of all account holders reported that they were employed either full-time or part-time when they enrolled in an AFI Project. The majority (64 percent) was employed full-time, and another 20 percent were employed part-time. A very small number (four percent) were either unemployed or retired when they enrolled. These participants became employed in order to have earned income for their IDA savings. Appendix Table O provides details about each project's participants.

Table 3.12 Employment Status at Time of Enrollment

Employment Status	Proportion of Participants at the End of FY 2004
Employed Full Time	64%
Employed Part Time	20%
Unemployed	3%
Student	8%
Retired	1%
Other	3%
Number of Grants Reporting	*232*

Account Holder Banking Relationship

Prior Checking or Savings Accounts

The IDA accounts were the first checking or savings accounts ever owned by many participants. As can be seen in Table 3.13, as of the end of FY 2004, 35 percent of account holders had never used a checking account before they enrolled in the AFI Project. Similarly, as shown in Table 3.14, 50 percent had never had a savings account. While these statistics had been relatively constant over the past three years, it is notable that the percentages of participants with prior accounts increased marginally in the most recent year.

Table 3.13 Account Holders With a Checking Account Prior to Enrollment

Grant Year	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2002	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2003	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2004
1999	66%	62%	66%
2000	49%	63%	60%
2001	57%	67%	63%
2002	--	67%	67%
2003	--	64%	74%
Overall	61%	64%	65%
Number of Grants Reporting	*79*	*129*	*199*

Table 3.14 Account Holders With a Savings Account Prior to Enrollment

Grant Year	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2002	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2003	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2004
1999	52%	46%	47%
2000	47%	45%	47%
2001	43%	53%	54%
2002	--	45%	47%
2003	--	--	56%
Overall	49%	48%	50%
Number of Grants Reporting	*79*	*128*	*198*

Use of Direct Deposit for Paychecks at Time of Enrollment

Few participant account holders (12 percent) used direct deposit of paychecks, as can be seen in Table 3.15.

Table 3.15 Account Holders Using Paycheck Direct Deposit

Grant Year	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2002	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2003	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2004
1999	9%	13%	12%
2000	12%	13%	6%
2001	22%	13%	13%
2002	--	12%	12%
2003	--	--	9%
Overall	13%	13%	12%
Number of Grants Reporting	*64*	*95*	*139*

Use of Automatic Allotment/Deposit Procedures

As Table 3.16 shows, as of the end of FY 2004, only a small portion of participants had ever used automatic banking procedures by the time they enrolled in an AFI Project. A significantly larger percentage of participants in projects started in 2003 reported that they had used these mechanisms. Nevertheless, most participants had never used savings tools such as automatic transfers from other bank accounts or paycheck direct deposit into bank accounts.

Table 3.16 Account Holders Using Automatic Allotment/Deposit

Grant Year	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2002	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2003	Proportion of Participants at End of FY 2004
1999	5%	4%	9%
2000	6%	7%	6%
2001	5%	8%	11%
2002	--	5%	9%
2003	--	--	20%
Overall	5%	6%	10%
Number of Grants Reporting	*70*	*104*	*163*

4. Project Financial Operations

The AFI Program requires grantees to follow strict standards for managing project finances and administering participant IDAs. They must account for all Federal grant funds and nonfederal cash resources in a bank account called a Project Reserve Account. They may deposit Federal grant funds into this account only when they have obtained and deposited at least an equal amount of nonfederal resources. Furthermore, they are required to track amounts of savings participants deposit in and withdraw from their IDAs. The following paragraphs provide detailed information about these financial operations.

Uses of AFI Grant Funds

Federal Grant Amounts Drawn Down

As shown on Table 4.1, as of the end of FY 2004, 226 grantees reported that they had drawn down a total of $27,054,259 in Federal funds and deposited it into their Project Reserve Account for program purposes. Appendix P lists this information for each grantee and each project.

Grantees may access their grant funds only to the extent they have obtained and deposited the required nonfederal cash resources to support their project. As shown by the amounts drawn down at the end of each of the past three Federal fiscal years, it is clear that grantees have made progress toward drawing down their Federal grants. For example, the 1999 grantees had drawn down 60 percent of their grant funds by the end of 2002, 69 percent by 2003 and 85 percent by the end of FY 2004. Similarly, the 2000 through 2002 grantees had drawn down increasing amounts each year, but the 2001 and 2002 grantees have drawn down funds at a slower rate.

Table 4.1 Amount and Portion of Federal Grants Drawn Down

Grant Year	End of FY 2002		End of FY 2003		End of FY 2004	
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%
1999	$4,629,299	60%	$5,340,677	69%	$7,191,314	85%
2000	$2,491,396	61%	$2,937,916	72%	$2,901,141	75%
2001	$3,739,565	25%	$6,203,421	43%	$8,361,854	45%
2002	--	--	$2,238,183	18%	$5,951,861	40%
2003	--	--	--	--	$2,648,088	23%
Total	$10,860,260	40%	$16,720,197	43%	$27,054,259	47%
Number of Grants Reporting	*118*		*171*		*226*	

(((DSG – WE CHANGED THE FORMAT OF THE FINAL ROW IN TABLE 4.1, BUT THE TRACK CHANGE FUNCTION DOESN'T HIGHLIGHT THIS CHANGE. PLEASE REFORMAT IT AS SHOWN ABOVE (BUT DON'T SHADE IT YELLOW… WE ADDED THE YELLOW SHADING TO HIGHLIGHT IT FOR THE DSG FOLKS WHO ARE MAKING THESE CHANGES). PLEASE CALL FOR INSTRUCTIONS IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.)))

The percentage of Federal grant funds drawn down varied by grantee. Table 4.2 shows that 43 percent of grantees had drawn down 75 percent or more of the grant for their project, while nearly 20 percent reported that they had not drawn down any Federal grant funds. As shown, the three year trend is that the percentage of grantees that are actively drawing down funds is increasing, though a significant proportion is drawing the funds slowly.

Table 4.2 Percentage of Federal AFI Grant Drawn Down

Percentage of Project Grant Amount Drawn Down	Proportion of AFI Projects at End of FY 2002	Proportion of AFI Projects at End of FY 2003	Proportion of AFI Projects at End of FY 2004
0%	22%	23%	20%
0 – 24.9%	17%	14%	11%
25 – 49.9%	14%	15%	14%
50 – 74.9%	15%	13%	13%
75 – 100%	30%	34%	43%
Number of Grants Reporting	*118*	*171*	*218*

Amounts and Uses of Nonfederal Funds

Table 4.3 shows that through FY 2004, the AFI grantees deposited $30,360,620 of nonfederal funds into their Project Reserve Accounts. This represents a substantial increase from the cumulative amount deposited at the end of the previous year. The FY 2004 total was 54 percent of the total obligated amount of nonfederal funds.

Grantees also continued to succeed at leveraging the AFI grants to obtain additional funds beyond the required nonfederal amount. As can be seen by comparing Tables 4.1 and 4.3, the grantees' deposits of nonfederal resources into their Project Reserve Accounts well exceeded the amounts of Federal funds drawn down and deposited. By the end of FY 2004, the nonfederal deposits were about 12 percent higher than the Federal funds drawn down and deposited into that those accounts. Appendix P provides more details about the amounts deposited into the Project Reserve Account.

Table 4.3 Nonfederal Amounts in Project Reserve Accounts

Grant Year	End of FY 2002		End of FY 2003		End of FY 2004	
	Amount	# of grantees reporting	Amount	# of grantees reporting	Amount	# of grantees reporting
1999	$5,739,964	32	$6,483,196	32	$8,447,022	34
2000	$2,807,466	21	$3,248,745	21	$2,941,225	19
2001	$4,501.46	65	$7,100,748	64	$10,509,894	73
2002	--	--	$3,111,691	55	$5,340,885	55
2003	--	--	--	--	$3,121,594	42
Total	$13,048,894	118	$19,944,380	172	$30,360,620	223

Amounts Deposited in Participant IDAs

By the end of FY 2004, 21,038 project participants had opened IDA accounts and deposited a $14,556,177 of earned income into those accounts. The average amount deposited was $697. As shown on Table 4.4, for 34 percent of the AFI Projects, the average amount of participant IDA savings was less than $400 per account. For 41 percent of Projects, the average was more than $600. By the end of the reporting period, more than one-quarter of all projects (26 percent) had average savings amounts of over $800. Appendix R provides detailed information about cumulative account holder savings deposits.

These average cumulative participant savings had grown substantially – by 18 percent – over the past two years. As shown on Table 4.5, it has increased from $508 at the end of FY 2002 to $592 at the end of $2003 and to $697 at the end of FY 2004.

Table 4.4 Average IDA Savings Balance

Average IDA Saving Balance per Project Participant	Proportion of AFI Projects at End of FY 2002	Proportion of AFI Projects at End of FY 2003	Proportion of AFI Projects at End of FY 2004
$0-$199	18%	17%	13%
$200-$399	29%	24%	21%
$400-$599	25%	24%	25%
$600-$799	14%	11%	16%
$800 or more	13%	23%	26%
Number of Grants Reporting	*92*	*139*	*199*

Table 4.5 Number of IDAs Ever Opened and Amounts of Earned Income Ever Deposited

Grant Year	End of FY 2002			End of FY 2003			End of FY 2004		
	Number of Accounts	Savings Deposited	Average Savings Balance	Number of Accounts	Savings Deposited	Average Savings Balance	Number of Accounts	Savings Deposited	Average Savings Balance
1999	4,722	$2,728,905	$578	6,110	$4,302,168	$704	7,576	$6,759,926	$892
2000	1,373	$624,282	$455	1,955	$1,081,745	$553	2,827	$1,636,919	$619
2001	1,718	$618,869	$360	3,255	$1,603,256	$493	6,427	$4,289,602	$667
2002	--	--	--	932	$240,437	$271	3,153	$1,566,549	$494
2003	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,057	$303,120	$287
Total	7,813	$3,972,055	$508	12,252	$7,227,605	$592	21,038	$14,556,117	$697
Number of Grants Reporting	*117*	*110*	*92*		*156*	*139*	*231*	*222*	*192*

Amounts and Purposes for IDA Withdrawals

The AFI Program imposes strict guidelines concerning participants' uses of their IDA savings. Participants are expected to make regular deposits of earned income into their IDAs, and they are allowed to access those funds for particular purposes and under certain circumstances only. In general, AFI grantee agencies enable participants to use their IDA savings for the purchase of any of three allowed assets: a first home, to capitalize a small business, or higher education. Participants who use their savings for any of these purposes have the extra benefit of their IDA matching funds. Participants may also access their savings only (not the matching funds) to cover certain emergency needs. Finally, any participant who withdraws IDA savings for any other purpose is terminated from the AFI Project.

The following paragraphs give summary information about the amounts and trends in participant savings withdrawals over the course of five years of the program. More details may be found in Appendices R and S. Appendix R provides cumulative account holder savings and qualified withdrawals per project. Appendix S displays, for each project, the cumulative amounts of savings withdrawn by participants for home purchase, small business, and education expenses

Participant Withdrawals of Earned Income

By the end of FY 2004, 9,415 participants had withdrawn $6,918,953 in earned income from their IDAs. The average amount withdrawn was $735 per participant.. Participants withdrew savings for a range of qualified and non-qualified purposes. About 46 percent of the withdrawals have been for qualified purposes, of either home purchases, small business expenses, postsecondary education or training, or transfers to dependants.

Home Purchase: Withdrawals of Earned Income and Allocations of Matching Funds

Withdrawals for home purchases have been the most common. This type of withdrawal has also been the largest in dollar value. AFI Projects reported that, by the end of FY 2004, a total of 1,750 individuals had withdrawn $2,465,829 in earned income for this purpose. The withdrawal amounts averaged $1,409 per participant. As shown on Table 4.6, the average amount withdrawn was less than $1,000 for 31 percent of projects, between $1,000 and $1,499 for 29 percent of reporting projects, and above $1,500 for 40 percent of the projects.

As of the end of FY 2004, the average amount of matching funds provided to participants for home purchase was $2,930. And, the average withdrawal plus match for home purchases was $4,346.

Small Business: Withdrawals of Earned Income and Allocations of Matching Funds

Withdrawals for small business expenses were the second most frequent type of withdrawal. Over the first five years of the program, 1,322 individuals withdrew earned income from their IDA for this purpose. They have withdrawn a total of $1,376,506, with an average of $1,041 withdrawn for this purpose. More than half (54 percent) of projects that reported participant withdrawals indicated that the average amount withdrawn was greater then $1,000. For only 12 percent of projects, the average small business withdrawal was less than $500. (See Table 4.6.)

Over the course of the AFI Program, an average of $2,435 in matching funds has been allocated to participants for small business development. The average amount of savings withdrawn from participant IDAs plus matching funds allocated for this purposes is $3,571.

Postsecondary Education: Withdrawals of Earned Income and Allocations of Matching Funds

Education purchase is the third most popular IDA savings goal. As of the end of FY 2004, 1,267 project participants had withdrawn savings for this purpose. They had withdrawn $1,194,149 in earned income, averaging $943 per participant.. Almost two-thirds (61 percent) of withdrawals were in amounts between $200 and $999. (See Table 4.6.)

An average amount of $2,000 in matching funds has been provided for postsecondary education savers over the course of the program. The average amounts saved plus the average match allocated, for education were $2,961.

Emergency Withdrawals of Earned Income Only

Participants may access their IDA savings – that is, the amount of earned income they have deposited into their IDAs – for certain emergency situations: when needed to cover medical expenses, prevent eviction, or to cover living expenses following loss of employment. Participants who make emergency withdrawals from their IDAs do not have access to the matching fund allocation, and any amount of savings withdrawn must be returned within twelve months.

Grantee data indicate that IDA savings have been an important source of emergency support for a number of project participants. As of the end of FY 2004, a total of 1,279 participants had dipped into their IDA savings for this purpose. They withdrew a total of $342,465 for an average emergency withdrawal of $268. Appendix T provides project-by-project information about this withdrawal category.

Other Withdrawals of Earned Income Only: Non-Qualified Purposes

While participants are strongly encouraged to follow their savings plan and continue contributing savings over the course of the project, a significant number of participants who open IDAs find it necessary to withdraw savings from their accounts before they are ready to purchase their planned assets. This type of withdrawal is termed a "non-qualified withdrawal." Participants who make unqualified withdrawals may be suspended or removed from the AFI Project, and they forfeit access to any matching funds that had been allocated by the AFI grantee towards their savings goal.

As of the end of FY 2004, a total of 3,773 participants had made unqualified withdrawals. They withdrew a total of $1,533,009, averaging $406 per withdrawal. See Appendix T for more details.

The annual data collection does not focus on the unqualified withdrawals, nor does it include questions about why participants make these withdrawals.

Table 4.6 Average Withdrawals Across Uses

Grant Year	Proportion at End of FY 2002	Proportion at End of FY 2003	Proportion at End of FY 2004
Average Withdrawals for Home Purchase			
<$500	11%	8%	3%
$500–$999	23%	25%	28%
$1,000–$1,499	41%	32%	29%
$1,500–$1,999	11%	20%	18%
$2,000+	14%	15%	22%
Number of Grants Reporting	*44*	*65*	*119*
Average Withdrawals for Small Business			
<$200	15%	13%	12%
$200–$499	9%	18%	35%
$500–$999	42%	35%	30%
$1,000+	33%	35%	13%
$2,000+	*	*	*11%*
Number of Grants Reporting	*33*	*55*	*101*
Average Withdrawals for Postsecondary Education			
<$200	27%	13%	5%
$200–$499	15%	28%	20%
$500–$999	42%	33%	41%
$1,000+	15%	26%	18%
$1,500+	*	*	*7%*
Number of Grants Reporting	*33*	*54*	*111*

* Data not available.

Balances Remaining in Participant IDAs

As shown on Table 4.8, a total of 12,627 IDA accounts are currently open, with total participant savings of $5,180,253. The average balance for open accounts is $533. This represents an increase of approximately 9 percent relative to the average balance of $489 at the end of FY 2003.

For participants involved in AFI Projects started in 1999, the average balance in open accounts was much higher ($741) than the average account balance for participants of projects that started later. The average balance was $447 for projects that received AFI funding in 2000, $497 for those funded in 2001, $396 for those funded in 2002, and $347 for those funded in 2003.

Table 4.7 Distribution of IDA Balances for Accounts Open at Year-End

Grant Year	Proportion at End of FY 2002	Proportion at End of FY 2003	Proportion at End of FY 2004
$0 - $199	22%	25%	19%
$200 - $399	32%	24%	35%
$400 - $599	21%	22%	19%
$600 - $799	13%	13%	14%
$800 or more	13%	16%	14%

Slightly over half of all projects (54 percent) had average IDA balances of less than $400, including 19 percent with balances under $200. At the upper limit, slightly over one fourth (28 percent) or projects had average balances of more than $600, including 14 percent with average balances above $800. (See Table 4.7 above.)

Table 4.8 Number of IDAs and Savings Balances at End of Each Fiscal Year

Grant Year	End of FY 2002			End of FY 2003			End of FY 2004		
	Number of Open IDA Accounts	Total Savings Balance	Average Savings Balance	Number of Open IDA Accounts	Total Savings Balance	Average Savings Balance	Number of Open IDA Accounts	Total Savings Balance	Average Savings Balance
1999	3,696	$1,966,618	$532	3,838	$2,293,831	$598	2,832	$2,075,198	$741
2000	1,280	$475,937	$372	1,457	$626,956	$430	1,007	$450,167	$447
2001	1,600	$545,093	$341	2,830	$1,230,965	$435	6,329	$1,728,683	$497
2002	--	--	--	903	$259,678	$288	1,613	$638,023	$396
2003	--	--	--	--	--	--	846	$288,182	$347
Total	6,576	$2,987,648	$454	9,028	9,028	$489	12,627	$5,180,253	$533
Number of Grants Reporting	*109*	*112*	*92*	*157*	*157*	*137*	*212*	*206*	*206*

5. Special State-Wide Projects

The AFI program authorizing legislation enabled OCS to issue special AFI grants to support on-going State-administered IDA projects in the State of Indiana and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These grantees are exempt from many AFI program design and related guidelines and requirements. The status of these special State-wide projects is outlined below.

State of Indiana IDA Demonstration Program

Program Administration

OCS has awarded a total of $4.1 million to the Indiana Department of Commerce (IDC) between FYs 1999 and 2004 for its IDA program.

The State manages the program through 44 community-based organizations that administer IDA services throughout the State. Table 5.1 displays the types of organizations involved and their agency type.

Table 5.1 Types of Administering Agencies: Indiana State-wide Program

Administering Agency Type	Proportion
Community Development Corporation	25%
Community Action Agency	23%
Affordable Housing Organization	23%
Social Service Nonprofit	18%
Urban Enterprise Association	7%
Faith-Based Organization	4%

The State reported that it devoted one Full Time Equivalent (FTE) position for overall program administration. Each of the local implementing agencies devoted approximately 0.5 FTE to the effort.

Program Design

The Indiana IDA Program provides $6 to $1 match for a maximum of $300 in savings. Each participant is eligible to receive no more than $1,800 in matching funds.

Financial Education and Asset-Specific Training

Participants must attend at least eight hours of financial education annually.

Some local administering agencies partner with other local organizations to provide four hours or more of additional asset-specific training.

Program Participants

The typical Indiana program participant is white (50 percent), female (80 percent), and under 40 in age (64 percent of participants were 20-39). The typical participant is unmarried (77 percent), with children (80 percent), employed full-time (74 percent), and resides in a major urban area (65 percent).[‡]

Participant Savings and Withdrawals

As of the end of FY 2004, the Indiana program's 2,447 participants had saved a total of $719,322 in earned income, with a per-participant average savings of $294.

Program participants had made 838 qualified participant withdrawals,[§] totaling $338,385. A total of 399 (48 percent) were for postsecondary education, 230 (27 percent) for home purchase, and 209 (25 percent) for small business capitalization. The amount of matching funds disbursed for participant purchases is $2,414,158, averaging $987 per participant.

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‡ The information on race/ethnicity was missing for approximately 4 percent of its AFI account holders (98 of the 2,447 participants), and an additional 6 percent were reported as "other." The age of account holders was missing for approximately 8 percent of its AFI account holders (194 of the 2,447 participants). The household child composition information for approximately 16 percent of its AFI account holders (385 of the 2,447 participants) was missing. The employment status was missing for approximately 25 percent of its AFI account holders (613 of the 2,447 participants).

§ A participant can receive more than one match for qualified withdrawals over a Project's four-year period. These 838 qualified participant withdrawals represent 1,290 AFI account withdrawals.

Pennsylvania Family Savings Account Program

Program Administration

OCS has awarded a total of $4.7 million in AFI program funds between FY 1999 and 2004 to the Community Empowerment Office of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), to support the State's Family Savings Account (FSA) program. The FSA is active in 41 of the Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

DCED administers the program through 42 community-based organizations located throughout the State. Table 5.2 lists the types of administering agencies and the distribution of those types.

Table 5.2 Types of Administering Agencies: Pennsylvania State-wide Program

Administering Agency Type	Proportion
Community Action Agency	55%
Social Service Nonprofit	15%
Affordable Housing Organization	9%
Community Development Corporation	5%
Other	16%

The State reported that it devotes one FTE to administer the program State-wide. Each of the local-level agencies devoted approximately 0.5 FTE to the program.

Program Design

The FSA Program provides a $1 to $1 match for a maximum of $2,000 in participant savings. Participants may receive up to $2,000 in matching funds to support their asset purchase.

The FSA program allows participants to save for the regular AFI assets (a first home, small business and higher education and for several additional options including child care expenses, home repairs, and automobiles.

Financial Education and Asset-Specific Training

Participants must attend at least eight hours of financial education or asset-specific training.

Program Participants

The typical AFI participant in the FSA program is Caucasian (60 percent) or African American (31 percent), female (69 percent), and 20 to 39 years of age (58 percent), unmarried (75 percent), and living in a minor urban (42 percent) or rural area (33 percent).[**]

Participants Savings and Withdrawals

As of the end of FY 2004, the FSA program had enabled 6,129 participants to open IDAs. They had saved a total of $5,498,369 from earned income, averaging $897 per participant. There have been an estimated 667 qualified withdrawals by participants who were savings for AFI-approved assets. Of these, at least 140 (21 percent) were for home purchase,163 (24 percent) were for postsecondary education expenses, and 33 (5 percent) were for small business capitalization.[***]

[**] Race/ethnicity was missing for approximately 12 percent of its AFI account holders (483 of 4,000), and an additional 2 percent were reported as "other." Gender was missing for approximately 5 percent of its AFI account holders (207 of 4,000). Age information was missing for approximately 6 percent of its AFI account holders (244 of 4,000). Marital status information was missing for approximately 15 percent of its AFI account holders (613 of 4,000). Location type was missing for approximately 21 percent of its AFI account holders (836 of 4,000).

[***] DCED, Statistical Record of Achievement Report, September 30, 2004. Of the $5.5 million in savings since July 1998, $2.3 million occurred during the period since October 2000. There is a discrepancy between DCED's Statistical Record Report and the qualified withdrawals reported for home purchases by the 42 sub grantees. The sub grantees reported a total of 152 qualified withdrawals for home purchase. It is possible that some of these home purchase withdrawals should have been categorized as home improvements or home repairs.

6. Additional OCS Support for Grantees

Technical Assistance

OCS administers a number of training and technical assistance services available to all AFI Program grantees. The framework for the training is the AFI Resource Center, which is managed in-house by OCS staff. Through this mechanism, staff and outside experts provide a number of types of assistance including:

- Training Academies – Two-day intensive training events for teams from AFI Projects and partners;
- Monthly Topical Conference Calls – Facilitated conference calls or small group discussions about asset-building issues and AFI Project administrative matters;
- Customized Technical Assistance – Telephone or in-person assistance on administrative or programmatic issues such as recruiting participants, providing financial literacy education, building partnerships, or closing-out grants;
- Asset Building Webpage – Provides general information about asset building, the AFI program, funding opportunities, and other resources for both grantees and others interested in asset building. The page also features links to research and publications on asset building. The web page address is: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/assetbuilding.

Data Management

OCS has developed the AFI^2 Information system, which is available to all grantee organizations as a component of overall training and technical assistance available from the AFI Resource Center. The system is designed specifically to reduce the administrative cost of managing an AFI Project and simplify the data collection for management and reporting purposes.

National Evaluation

OCS has contracted with a social science research organization to implement a multi-year national evaluation of the program. The evaluation design has two components: a process study and an impact study. The process study component provides a comprehensive picture of the development, planning, start-up, and on-going operations of selected AFI Projects. The impact study component is examining the effects of IDAs on AFI participants, based on a three-year longitudinal survey of 600 participants nationwide. It is designed to examine the extent to which AFI-funded IDAs affect participant savings and asset accumulation.

Appendices

This appendix presents information compiled from reports submitted by AFI grantees. The grantees submitted separate data sets for each AFI Project they administer. The tables presented here include demographic information about project participants and their households; details about financial aspects of the projects including the status of reserve funds, deposits, and withdrawals; and other facts about project configurations, financial literacy training requirements, staffing and other details. The tables are organized as follows:

A. All AFI Grants Awarded From FY1999 through FY2003
B. Grantee Characteristics: Project Staffing
C. Basic Financial Literacy Education
D. Asset-Related and Advanced Financial Training
E. Account Opening and Closing by Agency
F. Gender of AFI Account Holders by Agency
G. Race and Ethnicity of Account Holders
H. Marital Status of Account Holders
I. Number of Adults in Household of Account Holder
J. Number of Children in Households of Account Holders
K. Income in Relation to Poverty Levels
L. Area of Residence of Account Holders
M. Educational Status of Account Holders
N. Age of Account Holders
O. Employment Status of Account Holders
P. Reserve Fund, Grant Draw Down, and Total Savings
Q. Reserve Fund Accounts and Amounts Held by Financial Institutions
R. IDA Savings Withdrawals, and Amounts by Agency
S. Qualified Withdrawals
T. Other Withdrawals