



MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY

I am pleased to present the FY 2009 President's Budget request for the Administration for Children and Families. Our core mission is to promote the economic and social well-being of children, youth, families, and communities, focusing particular attention on vulnerable populations such as children in low-income families, refugees, Native Americans, and people with developmental disabilities.

The FY 2009 ACF budget requests additional funding for critical programs serving children, youth and families and continues support for the President's and the Secretary's priority initiatives targeting these vulnerable populations – including Head Start, Adoption Incentives, Compassion Capital Fund, Mentoring Children of Prisoners, Community-Based Abstinence Education, Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood, and a new initiative addressing Disaster Human Services Case Management. The budget request reflects the goals and objectives in the Department's FY 2007-2012 Strategic Plan, and continues reliance on the PART process as a critical tool for evaluating program effectiveness and developing budget and legislative strategies.

This submission includes the FY 2009 Annual Performance Plan and FY 2007 Annual Performance Report as required by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) along with an integrated discussion of budget and program performance. Performance measurement and reporting at ACF provide a comprehensive set of measures and outcomes offering results-oriented information that enables ACF to share with stakeholders its progress toward achieving four strategic goals:

- Increase economic independence and productivity for families;
- Improve healthy development, safety, and well-being of children and youth;
- Increase the health and prosperity of communities and Tribes; and
- Manage resources to improve performance.

ACF's implementation of performance management has created a consistent framework for linking agency-wide goals with program priorities and targeting resources to meet the needs of children and families. It has provided a shared vision of what needs to be accomplished with our partners and provides a consistent and effective way to measure our achievements and to strive for continued improvement.

(signed)
Daniel C. Schneider
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Children and Families