

## **Program Offices**

ACF oversees multiple programs that serve children and their families, particularly low-income children. (A list of relevant program offices is included in the contact information on page 47.) These include child welfare, child support enforcement, family assistance, services to refugees and Native Americans. Marriage strengthening services fit within the missions of these and similar programs. Of the 12 program offices within ACF, eight contribute to or are affected by the HMI.<sup>1</sup>

## **ANA**

### **Administration for Native Americans**

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) seeks to support projects that include approaches to improve child well-being by removing barriers to forming and sustaining healthy marriage and strengthening families in Native communities. Studies have shown a clear link between healthy marriages and child well-being<sup>6</sup>. A component of the ACF Healthy Marriage Initiative, the Native American Healthy Marriage Initiative (NAHMI) promotes culturally competent strategies to strengthen Native American families and communities by fostering healthy marriages, responsible fatherhood, and child well-being.

The NAHMI includes three components

- Education and Communication

- The Creation and Enhancement of Collaborations and Partnerships

- Identifying Resources

## **ANA Grantee Highlights**

### ***National Indian Women's Health Resource Center (NIWHRC):***

NIWHRC is extremely successful in working with youth throughout local schools. In their first year they developed a youth focused healthy relationship curriculum and trained over 100 youth. In their second year of training in local schools, they continue to be successful in completing activities.

### ***Project's description:***

This project will partner with the American Indian Young Women's Sorority-Gamma Delta Pi (University of Oklahoma) and the Chickasaw Nation to develop and implement a Healthy Relationship Skills curriculum and training for youth/young adults ages 11-23. Historical documents will be researched to review traditional beliefs and values regarding relationship and communication skills. A written summary will be prepared and implemented in the curriculum. This project will be completed within 36 months from the date of award.

### ***Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches:***

The project is focused on fatherhood but incorporates teaching healthy relationship skills in many activities. Fatherhood groups are held weekly and

family gathering events are held throughout the year to provide activities for fathers and their children. This project has provided fatherhood skills and support to over 30 active participants. The weekly fatherhood groups discuss various topics such as: Cooking a Meal Together, Lessons from Mother Nature, Family Activities, Taking Care of Yourself and Relationship Skills. On Average, 20 families attend the family gathering events. One example of this activity was a trip to a Minnesota Twins baseball game. Program lodge sessions included the following cultural and training activities: talking circles, adult communication, and the cultural aspects and symbolism involved in rebuilding the facility's tribal lodge.

***Project's Description:***

This intervention project provides urban teen and adult Native American fathers with a supportive, cultural environment in which to learn the tools to excel at parenting and relationship issues while gaining knowledge, in culture and life skills. The project will have a thorough evaluation plan and a solid curriculum which will be directly related to the development of healthy relationships. The project consists of a group of mothers and fathers who will learn how to interact with their children. The educational component includes topics such as traditional parenting, communication, healthy relationships, and inexpensive/ safe/ educational/ family activities. The project will have family nights and family outings each year. In partnership with the Family Violence Program, individual and couple counseling, as well as domestic violence and anger management group sessions, will be offered to couples dealing with domestic violence. This project is scheduled to be completed within 36 months from the date of award.

**Participants Receiving Marriage Education 2003-2006**

Grantee	Served to Date
Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma	10, 578
Chugachmiut, Inc	344
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	200
TOTAL	11,122

**Since NAHMI's inception, ANA has funded 24 healthy marriage grants. This translates to nearly \$5 million in funds to Native communities to strengthen relationships and families.**

**Note that 10 of the 24 were awarded in 2006**

***Accomplishments from ANA's Healthy Marriage Projects, 2003-2006***

- The Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma certified over 30 foster care homes, trained over 10,000 people in Relationship Skills and provided abstinence training to over 2,500 participants.
- Chugachmiut provided Fatherhood workshops to over 200 participants and Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) to over 100 participants.

- The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma trained over 60 people in PREP and provided marriage enrichment activities to over 200 people.
- The National Indian Women's Health Resource Center developed a relationship skills curriculum, trained 12 adults in Train the Trainer sessions, and trained approximately 200 youth.
- The Native Wellness Institute trained 12 couples with their newly developed "Leading the Next Generations Healthy Relationship Curriculum," provided four healthy relationship workshops to over 200 people and conducted Tribal Leader roundtables on NAHMI with 39 Tribal Leaders and representatives.
- The Citizen Potawatomi Nation trained 13 couples and 19 individuals in PREP.
- First Nations Community Health Source trained 17 couples in Practical Applications of Interpersonal Relationship Skills (PAIRS) and 30 youth in Practical Exercises for Enhancing Relationship Skills (PAIRS for PEERS).
- The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches provided fatherhood skills and support to over 30 active participants. On average, 20 families attend the family gathering events held throughout the year.
- The Native American Youth and Family Center conducted four Community Gatherings, including a presentation and discussion on healthy relationships and marriages to 150 people. Over 80 youth participate in Talking Circles and relationship skills activities.
- ANA funded Tribal Leader Roundtables in Tribal communities to discuss the NAHMI.

### **Children's Bureau**

The Children's Bureau (CB) works with State and local agencies to develop programs that focus on preventing the abuse of children in troubled families, protecting abused children, and finding permanent placements for those who cannot safely return to their homes.

### ***Child Welfare Training Grants***

CB has awarded grants to five institutions of higher education. The grantees are developing and field-testing training curricula that assist child welfare staff in promoting healthy marriage and family formation. The grants are authorized through Section 426 of Title IV-B of the Social Security Act.

Typical grantee activities include:

- Identifying and developing* methods for addressing healthy marriage and family formation with the child welfare staff population,
- Equipping* child welfare staff with curricula that support healthy marriages and family formation,
- Training* graduate students,
- Partnering* with faith- and community-based organizations, child welfare agencies and other community representatives to create curricula,
- Delivering* continuing education workshops, and
- Disseminating* training material and information through the media.

## **Post-Adoption Services and Marriage Education**

CB awarded 14 grants for Post-Adoption services and Marriage Education projects to improve the marital relationships of couples who have, or are in the process of adopting children from the child welfare system. Section 205 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978, as amended, authorizes these grants.

## **Safe and Stable Families Grants**

Seven grantees have received funding through the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Grant Program. These grants vary in approach, but all support healthy marriage, family formation and safety for children and families in or at the risk of being in the child welfare system. They are authorized by Section 430 of Title IV-B, Subpart 2, or the Social Security Act.

## **Fostering Healthy Marriage within Underserved Communities**

Ten Grantees have received funding through the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Programs. These Fostering Healthy Marriage within Underserved Communities (HMUC) grants vary in approach, but all support healthy marriage, family formation and safety for children and families in or at risk of being in the child welfare system. They are authorized by Section 430 of Title IV-B, Subpart 2, of the Social Security Act, and by Section 105 (b) (5) of CAPTA.

## **CB Healthy Marriage Lessons Learned**

1. Get referrals from Child Welfare: invest government money at the front end of the process (prevention).
2. For domestic violence protocols, some programs left brochures and documents in bathrooms. Others created little pins or paper inserts for shoes. If the individual or couple attended a class and had the insert, they signaled a domestic violence issue to the facilitator. This safe-guarded against uncomfortable group disclosures.
3. Programs made their services personable and inviting, the “more-touchy feeling” the researchers reported, the better; snack boxes and drinks were available for children; carnations and tablecloths were used for dinners; weekend retreats to State parks were very successful; and “fun day” entry points involved the community.

**Total Grantees: 36**

Top Grantees  
University of Denver, Grad School of  
Social Work

Served to Date  
575

Forest Institute of Professional Psychology	400
Bethany Christian Services	366
<b>CB TOTAL SERVED</b>	<b>4023</b>

### **Office of Child Support Enforcement**

The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) facilitates State and Tribal development of programs that locate non-custodial parents, establish paternity when necessary, and obtain and enforce child support orders.

### **Special Improvement Projects**

Special Improvement Project (SIP) grants fund faith and community based organizations, as well as State, local, and tribal agencies, to improve child support outcomes such as paternity establishment and child support collections and improve the economic well-being of children. These grants are authorized through Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. From 2003 to 2006, eleven projects received funding to provide child support and marriage education services to improve outcomes for children.

### **Section 1115 Waiver Projects**

These fourteen projects provide matching Federal monies for demonstration waiver projects that expand on current child support programs. The projects are funded using the child support formula grant matching rate of 66 percent Federal and 34 percent State; the projects are authorized by section 1115 of the Social Security Act. Though varied, all projects emphasize the importance of healthy marriage to a child's well-being, as well as financial stability, increased paternity establishment, and child support collection.

### **Section 1115 Demonstration Project**

This one project provides matching Federal funds for the discretionary demonstration project that expands and improves the operation of child support by emphasizing the importance of healthy marriage to the child's well-being. It also attempts to achieve increased paternity establishment and child support collection rates. The project is funded using the Federal Financial Participation (FFP) breakdown as follows: 29 percent Federal grant award; five percent matching State funds; and 66 percent FFP match through the IV-D child support enforcement program. The project is authorized by Section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

### **Waiver Highlights**

1. Four thousand, eight hundred thirty-eight individuals and couples have attended marriage education.
2. About one third served are couples.

3. Retention Rates in classes are high.
4. Curricula are researched based and focused on low-income clients.
5. Most projects have started media outreach efforts.

### **Texas (Houston and San Angelo)**

Two hundred eighty- two couples (564 individuals) have attended classes in both sites. One hundred ninety- seven couples have been assigned to control groups and all 479 couples have been assessed. This waiver project also is a Building Strong Family Site requiring a controlled, experimental design. Retention rate is very high (84 percent in San Angelo, 58 percent in Houston) with some attrition due to job changes, break ups and moves. Recruitment is from in-hospital paternity (San Angelo) and pre- and post- natal programs (Houston). Two hundred seventy-one paternities signed. This project uses *Love's Cradle* curriculum.

### **Idaho (Nampa)**

An interesting feature is that a school counselor who works with troubled children and parents is getting parents to sign up for marriage education where appropriate.

### **Florida (Jacksonville)**

Recruitment is through churches, community organizations, public agencies, events, baby boutiques and the media.

### **Ohio (Clark County)**

They are especially working with couples who are establishing paternity after the birth or as part of the administrative process where couples seek generic testing.

## **SIP Monitoring Highlights**

### **Louisiana (Baton Rouge)**

The project is delivering healthy marriage education training to families where one parent is incarcerated or was released from prison within a past 12-month period.

### **Missouri (St. Louis)**

The model of intervention in this project is to sufficiently saturate the community with providers trained in delivering the Family Wellness Curriculum with the long-term expected impact of promoting stable family formation.

### **Office of Community Services**

The Office of Community Service (OCS) addresses the economic and social needs of the urban and rural poor at the local level through grants and technical assistance.

## **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program**

The CSBG Program has funded healthy marriage activities through competitive, discretionary training and technical assistance grants. Funded projects all work to strengthen marriage and support families through community organizations. The grants are authorized by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, Title VI, Subtitle B, as amended.

### **Grantee Accomplishments**

#### **House of Prayer for All People Ministries Compton California**

During the month of October 2006, Married Couples Meeting (MCM) held its first recruitment kick-off event, "Unity in the Community- Family Day." The event attracted 150 community residents, (both adults and children); of this number, 25 volunteer couples were identified for participation in MCM. Fifteen couples officially enrolled in December 2006. Of this group, six couples completed the program evaluation survey and 12 couples enrolled in the program.

The purpose of MCM is to provide low-income African American couples with tools and skills for building, maintaining and sustaining a healthy marriage and family. MCM contains five components: (1) Marriage Education Skill Building Classes; (2) Marital Enrichment Activities; (3) Family Enrichment Activities; (4) Couple & Group Mentoring: Support Group Meetings; and (5) Childcare.

**Component 1:** Volunteer couples completed 15 sessions that covered topics in communication and conflict resolution. The couples verbally consented to a commitment contract and one couple who had filed for divorce reconciled. Also during this period the youngest couple announced wedding plans and is presently involved in pre-marital counseling.

**Component 2:** Marital activities were identified and couples participated in an MCM outing to the Staples Center to attend a Lakers Basketball Game.

**Component 3:** In February 2007, families participated in the Afro-America Festival Dinner.

**Component 4:** Couples interested in being mentored were paired with veteran MCM couples and individual mentors. Mentoring groups included the United Women in Compton and the Sons of Thunder. Sessions have focused on fostering positive communication with partners and successful navigation through relationship barriers.

**Component 5:** Children from the program participants participated in age appropriate activities.

#### **Kentucky Association for Community Action Frankfort, Kentucky**

In January 2007, the project staff developed and presented a Power Point presentation that provided an overview on implementing healthy marriage initiatives in agency service area to the community action member agencies.

Mary Ortwein, Executive Director of the Institute for Development of Emotional and Life Skills (IDEALS), provided an overview of the *Love's Cradle* curriculum. The training provided the participants with newly acquired skills and the tools required to facilitate class in a group setting. The core program taught the staff Relationship Enhancement skills around issues of trust, marriages, finances, intense emotions, parenting and extended family relationships. Each of the trained staff will offer the *Love's Cradle* program to interested individuals and couples in the community they serve. Additionally, each program staff member completed a baseline survey of Marital Attitudes and Relational Health conducted by the Bluegrass Healthy Marriage Initiative. The questionnaire was designed to provide guidance to staff of partnering organizations as they formulate healthy marriage and relationship education activities and programs.

In March 2007, the Domestic Violence Protocol training was held. The training was titled "Safe and Skilled: Understanding Marriage Education and Domestic Violence" and provided valuable information on current research conducted on the characteristics of abusers, contributing factors and the implications of the findings.

The project staff has designed a website for Building Healthy Families in Kentucky that went live on March 26, 2007. The website provides information on past events, upcoming trainings and events for Building Healthy Families in Kentucky. Users can also access additional links to secure information and resources through various websites across the country. As community action member agencies begin their marriage education classes, information will be available for individuals and couples who are interested in attending classes in their respective communities.

### **Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families Wilmington, Delaware**

The Delmarva Regional Healthy Marriage Initiative coalition reviewed the results of last year's mail survey to local congregations and community services organizations. Representatives of four major religious groups, key government agencies, including the State CSBG director, and local government entities were interviewed on the barriers, issues and needs that exist in local communities that affect the development of education and support programs for marriage preparation and/or enhancement among families, especially low-income families. Area families and youth service organizations were also included in the survey update. The coalition's basic fact sheet, which includes information on the status of marriage, divorce and cohabitation, was updated as a result of the review.



The coalition developed and planned “Family Builders,” a workshop series for professionals who work with couples. The pilot program, “Marriage and Friendship,” attracted ten participants. Another pilot program, “No More Jerks,” was attended by 30 individuals. The coalition has been working on a concept for “Healthy Marriage Resource Centers” for which they will attempt to locate private funding.

The organization continues to utilize the *In Faith and in Health* newsletter to disseminate project related information to local congregations. It also maintains a dedicated website, [www.dhmi.org](http://www.dhmi.org)

### **Hawkeye Area Community Action Hiawatha, Iowa**

Posters regarding the agency’s Healthy Marriage project have been distributed and are on display at all Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) sites and Healthy Marriage Initiative brochures have been distributed to all HACAP parents. Agency staff received training on the HMI and the Franklin Covey curriculum, “The Eight Habits of a Successful Marriage,” and parents have been involved in presentations related to the curriculum and workshop plans. Parents interested in attending workshops were surveyed and 107 responses were received. Ninety-three parents have expressed an interest in weekend retreats and 14 expressed an interest in weekday evening workshops. The project plans to distribute workshop schedules to parents.

### **Jackson County Civic Action Committee Moss Point, Mississippi**

The Project has established a partnership with the Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program to provide training to facilitators, to present information at marriage education classes and to provide Jackson County Civic Action Committee (JCCAC) with information brochures and flyers to display and give participants.

The project is currently using the “Eight Habits of a Successful Marriage” curriculum to provide marriage education classes to married and single adults. Facilitator training for the curriculum has been held; three facilitators and three co-facilitators successfully completed the “Habits of a Successful Marriage” certification process. Forty-two participants complete the educational course. A marriage assessment data form has been developed and completed by more than 650 individuals. The data is currently being compiled and evaluated; the initial information from the assessment survey indicates:

- 74 percent of single adults are interested in marriage
- 87 percent consider marriage important for themselves
- 87 percent consider marriage important for children
- 81 percent consider marriage education important
- 71 percent believe that they could benefit from marriage education

- 65 percent would attend marriage education classes if offered a convenient time (nights and weekends).

Based on this information, the project will initially offer both morning and evening classes and monthly weekend retreats. The first retreat was held April 20-22, 2007.

Successful marketing and information dissemination activities have included:

- Oral presentations at Head Start parent meetings and to faith-based organizations
- Articles on the marriage education classes have appeared in the monthly Head Start newspaper
- Marriage education flyers have been posted, distributed and mailed to community organizations and Head Start parents.

Project staff has participated in community events, distributing information and making oral presentations at HIV/AIDS Awareness Fair and the YMCA Children's First Fair.

### **Ohio Community Action Training Organization Columbus, Ohio**

The Ohio Community Action Training Organization (OCATO) contracted to provide on-site training for Within My Reach Leader training. The training was provided by a representative from Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) and a representative from Public Strategies, Inc. Thirty –Eight leaders were trained from across the State.

OCATO invited several faith based organizations to participate in a two day retreat to discuss the Healthy marriage initiative participation in OHIO. The first day of the retreat was spent with the faith based organizations sharing their programs and initiatives as well as their needs. The group engaged in strategic planning to establish the process for creating a statewide coalition for Community Action Agencies and their partners regarding the Healthy Marriage Initiative.

They established the following outcomes and goals:

- To address diversity by including all faiths, ethnic groups and cultures
- To offer regional comprehensive evidence-based training and technical assistance
- To maximize the use of technology
- To establish a qualified leading organization
- To ensure full participation of the Ohio CAA Network
- To define the mission, vision and commitment to continual best practices
- To engage key stakeholders at multiple levels, including domestic violence coalitions

### **Wedded Bliss Foundation Washington, DC**

Recruitment for the project's marriage education classes has begun with the holding focus groups and the development and distribution of the promotional brochure entitled "Better Together." The ACF African American Healthy Marriage Initiative newsletter included an article on the project's marriage education classes.

### **Compassion Capital Fund**

Created in 2002, the Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) is a key component of the President's Faith-Based and Community Initiative. CCF helps faith- and community- based organizations increase their organizational capacities and improve the services they provide, often to those most in need. CCF is funded through appropriations by Congress and is administered under Section 1110 of the Social Security Act. The Compassion Capital Fund administers three grant programs: the **CCF Demonstration Program**, the **CCF Targeted Capacity-Building Program (mini-grants)**, and the **CCF Communities Empowering Youth Program**.

The **CCF Demonstration Program** funds intermediary organizations to work directly with faith-based and community organizations to provide training and technical assistance and sub-awards. CCF Demonstration Program Announcements have included healthy marriage as one of seven priority areas for which intermediaries could provide capacity-building services or sub-awards. Current grantees electing to include healthy marriage are described below

#### **Auburn University** (Serving the State of Alabama)

"The Alabama Marriage and Family Project (AMFP)." The AMFP worked to assist agencies in building capacity to provide programs and services that strengthened families and communities through healthy marriages, two-parent involvement/ responsible fatherhood, and family stability.

**Project Period: September 30, 2005**

#### **California Healthy Marriages Coalition** (Serving the State of California)

"The California Healthy Marriages Project." This project developed and nurtured a coalition to help California families have greater access to programs that equipped them with the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain a healthy marriage and family, overcome the risk of gang influence and involvement, and make the transition from welfare to work.

**Project Period: September 30, 2005, to February 28, 2007**

**The East Los Angeles Community Union** (Serving the greater metropolitan area of Southern California, including the western portions of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties). The Project focused on building the capacity of organizations serving distressed communities with a high need for support among couples who chose marriage and/or intervention with youth at risk or gang involvement and influence.

Capacity-building focused on sustainable growth and development among culturally competent organizations while fostering effective programmatic responses to these critical issues, particularly within the Latino community.

**Project Period: September 30, 2005, to February 28, 2007.**

**Governor's Office of Faith- Based and Community Initiatives** (Serving the State of Ohio) "Ohio Compassion Capital Project." The Governor's Office, in coordination with the Economic Community Development Institute, Community Care Network, Ohio Community Action Training Organization, and Freestore Foodbank, is intensely engaged in capacity-building with grassroots organizations. The project plans to develop a "Best Practices" healthy marriage curriculum. Additionally, the project expects to fund up to 12 sites, with a special initiative for youth and adults involved in the justice system. **Project Period: August 1, 2004, to July 31, 2007.**

**HIGH Country Consulting LLC Faith Initiatives of Wyoming** (Serving the State of Wyoming) "Faith Initiatives of Wyoming Compassion Capital Fund Project." The project provides faith- and community-based organizations with technical assistance to develop community marriage policies and workshops designed to highlight the state of marriage in Wyoming. Workshops are held through the Marriage, Family, and Respect Life Ministry Division of the Catholic Diocese of Wyoming. Workshops use marriage curricula such as the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program and the Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study pre-marital inventories. **Project Period: August 1, 2004 to July 31, 2007**

**Institute for Contemporary Studies, Bay Area Inner City Leadership Alliance (BAICLA)** (Serving Oakland, Alameda County, San Francisco, and San Francisco County and Contra Costa County, CA) The Bay Area Healthy Marriage Initiative builds the capacity of small faith- and community-based organizations to provide marriage education programs and services. The sub-awards granted through BAICLA fund three-day Marriage Education Certification Programs, FOCCUS seminars, advanced marriage and family strengthening seminars, and a fatherhood project.

**Institute for Youth Development** (Nationwide)  
"Compassion Capital Fund Project." Through its Compassion Capital Fund Project, Institute for Youth Development (IYD) provided intensive capacity-building educational conferences for faith-based and community organizations in 12 cities, representing 11 States and on territory. IYD also made multiple sub-awards which promoted the sustainability of faith- and community-based organizations that supported healthy marriage. **Project Period: September 30, 2005, to February 28, 2007**

**Iowa Family Policy Council** (Serving the State of Iowa)  
"Iowa Compassion Capital Project." Iowa Family Policy Council equipped faith-based and community organizations to better serve Iowa's poor, gain organizational strength, compete for public funding, encourage effective partnerships among and between public agencies and faith-based and community organizations, and measure the impact of partnerships. **Project Period: September 30, 2005 to February 28, 2007**

**The Metropolitan Council (Met Council) on Jewish Poverty** (Serving New York City) "Technical Assistance Growth Fund." The Met Council Technical Assistance Growth Fund is designed to support a diverse range

of faith- and community-based organizations by expanding organizational infrastructures, diversifying funds, and creating collaboration to better serve those most in need. With CCF funds, Met Council has offered three training and technical assistance conferences on marriage education. Through for couples to build and sustain healthy marriages. Met Council has also provided sub-awards that further the sustainability of organizations that build and sustains healthy marriages. **Project Period: August 1, 2004, to July 31, 2007.**

The **CCF Targeted Capacity-Building Program (mini-grants)** faith- and community-based organizations with one-year mini-grants to increase their capacity to serve targeted social service to priority areas, including increasing marriage education services. In 2004, 28 organizations received mini-grants to improve their efficiency and capacity in the area of healthy marriage. This number increased to 42 organizations in 2005, and 53 organizations in 2006.

For more information about the Office of Community Services, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/>

### **Office of Family Assistance**

In February 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005, which reauthorized the TANF program administered by ACF. The DRA reauthorization also included \$150 million to support programs designed to help couples form and sustain healthy marriages. Up to \$50 million of this amount was authorized for programs designed to encourage responsible fatherhood.

In September 2006, the Office of Family Assistance (OFA) awarded 226 grants under the DRA Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood provision. One hundred twenty-six grants were for Healthy Marriage and 100 grants were for Promoting Responsible Fatherhood. OFA received a total of 1, 653 applications. Healthy Marriage applications totaled 828 and 825 for Responsible Fatherhood. Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood grants were distributed across 47 States and one Territory. Grantees are currently in the implementation phase of their projects. This has resulted in a marked increase in the provision of healthy marriage and fatherhood promotional activities, marriage and parenting education, relationship and economic skills development, and training across the country.

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<sup>i</sup> *Healthy Marriage Initiative Activities and Accomplishments 2002-2005*. Administration for Children and Families Healthy Marriage Initiative, Department of Health and Human Services. 2006. [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/healthy\\_marriage/pdf/community2006.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/healthy_marriage/pdf/community2006.pdf)