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**The Impact of a Successful Acquisition:
AQD Partners with HHS to Support the National Children's Study**

The Acquisition Services Directorate (AQD), a federal shared service provider within the Department of the Interior's National Business Center, has partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to award an IT development contract in support of the National Children's Study (NCS), a program which could ultimately benefit all Americans.

Assisting all federal agencies with a full range of acquisition services, from procurement planning through contract closeout, the AQD's staff of experienced, warranted federal Contracting Officers work in partnership with both federal civilian and military agencies to craft and award compliant, cost-effective contract solutions.

The National Children's Study, which was authorized by Congress in the Children's Health Act of 2000, is sponsored by a consortium of federal agencies, including the National Institute of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

On January 13, 2009, the NIH announced that the National Children's Study would begin recruiting volunteers to take part in its comprehensive study of how genes and the environment interact to affect children's health. The study will track the health and development of more than 100,000 children from before birth through to their 21st birthday and will be the gold standard for the environmental health of our children for the next 50 to 100 years.

Tamia True, AQD Contracting Officer reflects, "As this project starts to recruit their first volunteers excitement is in the air. Even having a small part to play in moving this study forward is heartwarming, knowing that the information gathered through this study will not only improve the lives of American children, it will also help children the world over to lead better, safer and hopefully happier lives".

Visit www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov to learn about the progress of the National Children's Study. For more information on the Acquisition Services Directorate, go to www.aqd.nbc.gov.