

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In late Fiscal Year 1997, all States and Territories applied for and received funding for Child Access and Visitation Grants from the total of \$10 million available under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. This report presents preliminary findings for 131 local projects in 28 States and two Territories.

Nearly 20,000 individuals were served during the first year of this new grant program, and this figure is expected to rise, significantly, when all States report. Wide discretion is permitted in States' determination of the activities to fund at the local level. Most States and their local projects report providing a mix of services. There is a healthy balance of services provided with respect to urban, suburban, and rural locations and administration by state and county agencies, courts, and non-profit organizations. There is also a balance regarding the racial and ethnic mix and marital status – divorced, separated, never-married — of the population served. Most individuals received parenting education, assistance in developing parenting plans, and mediation services, and the majority of individuals referred completed their program activities.