

Summary of Grants in Child Maltreatment Research Using Innovative Approaches

Funding Opportunity Number HHS-2014-ACF-ACYF-CA-0810

July 2017

The purpose of these grants is to encourage and support child maltreatment research that utilizes innovative research designs, including system sciences approaches and network analysis, to address existing knowledge gaps in the field. Child abuse and neglect is a complex issue that encompasses many embedded systems that both positively and negatively impact efforts to respond to the problem. Studies funded through these grants will allow the Children's Bureau to support innovative ideas on how to address current research challenges and will look across systems using a social-ecological framework in order to better understand the multiple, complex facets of child abuse and neglect. Topics for studies funded by this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) must be one of the following:

- (1) Economic evaluations of existing interventions to improve outcomes of children and families in or at risk of entering the child welfare system;
- (2) Evaluations to determine the efficacy and/or effectiveness of interventions that address neglect; or
- (3) Evaluations of existing evidence-based programs on specific cultural and ethnic groups that have not been studied.

The funding level for these grants is up to \$250,000 per year. The time period is up to 3 years, from October 2014 to September 2017.

The following grant project summaries were adapted from the applicants' Executive Summaries.

| Grantee | Project Summary |
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| <p>Washington University</p> <p>St. Louis, MO</p> <p>PI: Dr. Patrick Fowler</p> <p>Award #90CA1815</p> | <p>"Housing Services in Child Welfare: Economic Evaluation of Systems Coordination"</p> <p>This project will test the costs and cost-effectiveness of an intervention for inadequately housed families under investigation for child maltreatment. The Family Unification Program (FUP) is a Housing and Urban Development initiative that provides housing vouchers to families whose living conditions risk or prolong out-of-home placement for children. FUP coordinates services between local child welfare and public housing agencies to identify and link homeless families with safe and permanent housing. Phase 1 of the project aims to estimate the costs of providing housing services through the child welfare system in Chicago, which includes the FUP program as well as housing case management services-as-usual as provided by the Housing Advocacy Program. Per child and family costs will be calculated, and cost per unit of activity will be estimated to the extent possible. Phase 2 of the project will test the hypothesis that FUP is a cost-effective alternative to housing services-as-usual in terms of family stability and child well-being. The study will randomly assign families to either FUP or housing case management services-as-usual. Longitudinal administrative data linked across social service systems will be leveraged to provide policy-relevant information on child outcome costs.</p> |
| <p>Washington University</p> <p>St. Louis, MO</p> <p>PI: Dr. Melissa Jonson-Reid</p> <p>Award #90CA1832</p> | <p>"Intervening in Child Neglect: A Microsimulation Evaluation Model of Usual Care"</p> <p>This application proposes an approach in child maltreatment research that will use advanced statistical analyses of existing data systems utilized by States and the Children's Bureau. Information from these data systems will be combined with economic, policy, and population demographic information to build a microsimulation model examining how usual care services impact recurrent neglect reports and entry into foster care. The simulation model will be built from analyses of seven States with the largest child protective services caseloads (California, Florida, Illinois, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas) in the National Study of Child Well-being II (waves 1–3) and link child level files for the same States from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data Sets and Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting Systems. The study aims to (1) build a microsimulation model of the effect of usual care in-home child welfare services on recurrent reporting and entry into foster care for children reported for neglect and (2) explore the usefulness of a predictive aggregate model compared with models built on individual States according to the policy and demographic contexts.</p> |

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| <p>OSLC Developments, Inc.</p> <p>Eugene, OR</p> <p>PI: Dr. Lisa Saldana</p> <p>Award #90CA1816</p> | <p>"Addressing the Needs of Families Referred for Neglect: The FAIR Efficacy Trial"</p> <p>The proposed project is an efficacy trial of Families Actively Improving Relationships (FAIR), a multicomponent intensive intervention that combines evidence-based parenting interventions with contingency management interventions for parental substance use as well as systems interventions to address psychosocial needs for parents involved in the child welfare system due to neglect. The FAIR program has been evaluated through a small, randomized pilot study, but rigorous evaluation is now needed to determine if the program, if implemented more extensively, achieves outcomes that would benefit the child welfare population. The study will use a waitlist design to evaluate how parents referred to child welfare services for child neglect with comorbid substance use improve on both proximal and distal measures when they receive FAIR. The research will examine the program's impact on neglectful parenting, parental substance use, mental health and ancillary needs, and child welfare system outcomes.</p> |
| <p>Yale University</p> <p>New Haven, CT</p> <p>PI: Dr. Christian Connell</p> <p>Award #90CA1833;</p> | <p>"Rhode Island Child and Family Well-Being: Wraparound Services for CPS-identified Families"</p> <p>The proposed project extends a current and innovative research project that investigates the effects of an evidence-supported intervention for children and families referred to Rhode Island's statewide Children's Behavioral Health System of Care. The families enrolled will have had contact with child protective services (CPS) due to abuse or neglect. The wraparound service model (WSM) is designed to increase service access and reduce subsequent impairments for families with behavioral health needs. The study will be extended to allow for (1) inclusion of an additional 150 families and the addition of a 12-month follow-up interview; (2) incorporating a cost-study component to allow for an economic analysis of the cost-effectiveness of WSM, relative to non-wraparound services, in relation to improvements in clinical, behavioral, and functional outcomes; and (3) a targeted analysis to compare differential program effects of WSM for families referred for child neglect compared with other types of maltreatment, so as to ensure broad internal validity and enhanced generalization for the use of WSM in child welfare.</p> |
| <p>Children's Hospital Corporation</p> <p>Boston, MA</p> | <p>"Ecological Systems Approach to the Investigation of Child Neglect in Early Head Start"</p> <p>The proposed project will use a dynamic ecological systems approach to examine the impact of Early Head Start (EHS) on children's resilience to neglect and to investigate child outcomes among neglected children, from birth to grade 5. The proposed study intends to address a current gap in research on how programs can support resilience to child neglect. The applicant uses three organizing principles: embeddedness, adaptive systems, and emergent properties from systems theory to conceptualize</p> |

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| PI: Dr. Catherine Ayoub Award #90CA1814 | dynamic, complex relationships related to child neglect. The proposed study suggests the use of secondary data from the randomized controlled trial of EHS and from two new studies on child maltreatment in EHS and will collect additional data, including type, severity, chronicity, developmental timing, and perpetrator of neglect. The study will evaluate whether and how EHS promotes resilient pathways for families at risk for neglectful caregiving, with broad implications for policy and practice aimed at preventing and addressing child neglect. |
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