Bureau Name: Children's Bureau
Grant Number: Target Population: At-risk children and families

GRANT INFORMATION:
Name of Grantee: NYS Office of Children and Family Services
Fiscal Year: 2003
Amount of Award: $200,000.00
Program Name: Promoting Safe & Stable Families
Project Period: 10/01/2003-09/30/2006
ACF Region: 2
Congressional District Served: 21
Related Links:

ABSTRACT:
The NYS Office of Children and Family Services will continue New York State's evaluation of Healthy Families New York, a paraprofessional home visiting program to prevent child maltreatment. Evaluation goals are to assess program impact on child maltreatment and related risk factors and make evidence-based recommendations for policy and practice changes. Interviews have been conducted at baseline and at one and two year follow-up. The current funding request is to complete an enhanced third-year follow-up and to analyze all data. Healthy Families New York is modeled after Healthy Families America, the most widely disseminated home visitation program in the nation. Among evaluations of Healthy Families America, the current study of Healthy Families New York is of unprecedented quality and scope. It includes nearly, 1200 participants in three regions of the state, making it the largest randomized trial of the Healthy Families model ever conducted. Interviews already conducted have been extensive, focusing on parenting practices and a range of risk factors for child maltreatment. Year 3 data collection will include similar interviews, plus videotaped observations of parent-child interactions using validated protocols for data collection and coding. To date, no other randomized trial of the Healthy Families model of home visitation has conducted such a rigorous assessment of program outcomes. The experimental design will allow us to make definitive statements about program effectiveness. Data analyses will look not only at overall program effects, but will also involve identifying subgroups most likely to benefit from the program. Finally, articles and research reports will emphasize the implications that the findings have for policy decisions and practice. Given the national investment in HFA and the needs of policy-makers and practitioners for credible, relevant evaluation results, failure to continue this evaluation would amount to a major lost opportunity for the child welfare community to benefit from this rare study of the HFA model.

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