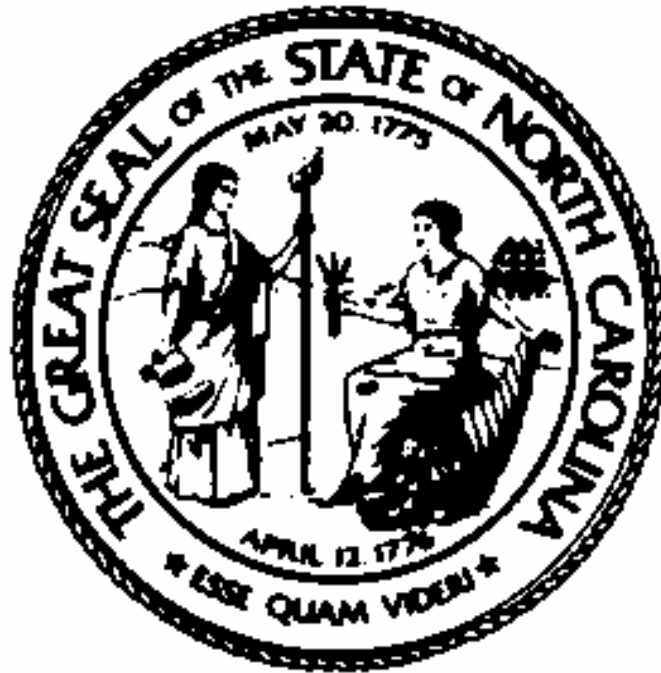


# REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

2006-2007 GRANT APPLICATION  
Intensive Family Preservation Services



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Social Services

*Closing Date: April 17, 2006*

## Intensive Family Preservation Services Program Grant Announcement

### **Introduction:**

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services is pleased to announce the availability of \$2,427,274.00 for grants to provide Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) Programs for SFY 2006-2007 on a multi-county and/or regional basis. This Request for Applications solicits responses from eligible applicants to provide these services to children and families in cases of documented child abuse, neglect and dependency in which the child is “at imminent risk of removal from the home” and in cases of documented child abuse in which the child is not “at imminent risk of removal from the home”. Intensive Family Preservation Services will also be provided when the family is found to be “In Need of Services” following the Family Assessment track of the Multiple Response System. The identified target population will require all funded programs to establish and maintain strong relationships with local county departments of social services. Grants will be awarded on a multi-county and/or regional, competitive basis.

### **Background:**

The 1991 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly enacted legislation which established a Family Preservation Services Program, to be developed and implemented by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). This legislation (the Family Preservation Act) grew out of the efforts of a coalition of advocates, legislators, educators, and human services professionals who were deeply concerned about the needs of children at risk of out-of-home placement and the availability of in-home and community services to meet those needs. The goals of the legislation include a reduction in the number of children who must be removed from their homes and a service system more focused on maintaining and strengthening families.

Intensive Family Preservation Services are family-focused, community-based crisis intervention services that are designed to maintain children safely in their homes and prevent unnecessary separation of families. The program shall provide intensive services to children and families in cases of documented child abuse, neglect, and dependency in which the child is “at imminent risk of removal from the home” and in cases of documented child abuse in which the child is not “at imminent risk of removal from the home”. Intensive Family Preservation Services will also be provided when the family is found to be “In Need of Services” following the Family Assessment track of the Multiple Response System and meets all other criteria for service provision. The program is to be developed and implemented statewide on a regional basis. Further, it shall ensure the application of *standardized assessment criteria for determining imminent risk* and clear criteria for determining out-of-home placement. These services are characterized by very small caseloads for trained and qualified IFPS professionals, the short duration of services, 24-hour availability of staff, high intensity, the provision of the services primarily in the child’s home environment, and a requirement of six months follow up for all closed cases. Programs are required to submit an estimated cost per family of the service provision for cost-benefit data determination. North Carolina’s IFPS program is based on the Homebuilder’s Model of Family Preservation Services.

**Scope of Services:**

Intensive Family Preservation Services programs shall provide the following services, at a minimum, as outlined in the *Intensive Family Preservation Services Policies and Standards*:

- Family Assessment
- Intensive Family and Individual Counseling
- Client Advocacy
- Case Management
- Development and enhancement of parenting skills
- Referral to other services, as appropriate

Child abuse and neglect prevention efforts are to be emphasized. Programs funded by the Division of Social Services are to build the capacity to provide in-home services to families in contact with the child welfare system. The philosophy underlying prevention services, as required by the federal Child and Family Services Review, is to reduce instances of child maltreatment and to help children remain safely in their own homes. This philosophy is to be incorporated across program lines.

Critical elements of the program design include:

- Targeting families with *and* without children at imminent risk of out-of-home placement
- Time-limited service provision that does not exceed six weeks
- Intensive, home-based service provision with the majority of the face-to-face contact occurring in the family's home and/or community
- Focus on promoting family competence and building the family's strengths and resources
- Culturally responsive service provision which demonstrates an understanding and respect for cultural and ethnic diversity
- Therapeutic and concrete services
- Accessibility and availability of family preservation caseworkers to the families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – by telephone or in person
- Caseloads no greater than four families at any given time
- Specially trained and supported professional staff

**Eligibility:**

We anticipate funding only up to two grants in each of the identified ten (10) regions. While we are not limiting the number of applications per multi-county cluster or region, we anticipate that the requirement for strong inter-disciplinary collaboration during the planning process will limit the number of applications submitted. It is estimated that eighteen (18) multi-county cluster/regional awards will be made. (See Attachment – Listing of Eligible Counties)

To qualify for funding consideration, each identified multi-county cluster or region must assemble a collaborative planning team. Each planning team must demonstrate strong collaboration among public and private human services agencies and organizations, non-

profit and community-based organizations, and consumers/parents who will use and benefit from the services. The planning team must conduct an initial needs assessment to assess the needs of the target population and to structure the IFPS program that best meets those needs. The planning team should reflect the socio-demographic composition of the region and, at a minimum, include diverse representation from the agencies and organizations listed below:

- County Department of Social Services (mandatory)
- All Community-Based programs funded through the NC Division of Social Services: Family Preservation, Family Resource Center, Family Support, Family Reunification, Respite, and Adoption, Promotion, and Support programs
- Other Community-Based programs
- Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- Public Schools
- Local Health Department
- Local Management Entity for Mental Health
- Local Partnerships and relevant stakeholders
- Families and potential consumers

The planning team must select an applicant agency to manage the IFPS program. Due to the nature of the services to be provided, this agency must be a public human service agency or a private, non-profit organization with designation under Section 501 © 3 of the federal tax code. This agency must have the **capacity to plan, provide, and effectively manage an IFPS program in a multi-county and/or regional area.**

### **Criteria for Funding:**

Each planning team must fulfill the following requirements:

- Comply with the Policies and Standards established for the state Intensive Family Preservation Program.
- State a commitment to employ staff able to demonstrate the skills and competencies required to provide or supervise IFPS services. All staff are required to attend the state sponsored Family-Centered/Family Preservation Services Training.
- Demonstrate that it has appropriate linkages with community agencies and organizations to enable it to help clients obtain and use services and resources and to make effective referrals, when needed, at the end of the service provision period.
- Demonstrate through the submission of an annual operating budget that the agency has adequate fiscal and other resources to provide a viable IFPS program. The applicant agency must also demonstrate a financial stability that will enable them to receive IFPS funding on a reimbursement after expenditure basis.
- Show the need for the services in the identified region. Relevant data should include, by ethnic and cultural background:
  - Trends in the number of child protective services reports received by county Departments of Social Services and the number of substantiated cases and cases found to be ‘in need of services’ at the conclusion of the Family Assessment track of Multiple Response.

- Trends in the number of children placed in DSS custody or Placement Authority
  - Trends in reasons for out-of-home placement of abused and neglected children, placement patterns, and length of stay in foster care.
  - Analysis of the number and profile of abused and neglected children who are at imminent risk of out-of-home placement.
- Provide a statement of commitment to providing services in a culturally responsive manner.
- **The following is taken from NC Session Law 2003-284 (Section 10.48):**  
Any program or entity that receives State, federal, or other funding for the purpose of Intensive Family Preservation Services shall provide information and data that allows for:
- An established follow-up system with a minimum of six months of follow-up services.
  - Detailed information on the specific interventions applied, including utilization indicators and performance measurement.
  - Cost-benefit data
  - Data on long-term benefits associated with Intensive Family Preservation Services. This data shall be obtained by tracking families through the intervention process.
  - The number of families remaining intact and the associated interventions while in IFPS and the 12 months thereafter. (*Note: the DSS Evaluation Team will track the '12 months thereafter'.*)
  - The number and percentage by race of children who received Intensive Family Preservation Services compared to the ratio of their distribution in the general population involved with Child Protective Services.

The amount of funding shall be based on the individual performance of each program, when applicable.

The state document *Intensive Family Preservation Services Policies and Standards* can be obtained at

<http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss>

All organizations applying for these funds must propose programs that meet these requirements and must use the model outlined in this document.