

# REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

2006-2007 GRANT APPLICATION  
Non-Intensive Family Preservation Services



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

*Closing Date: April 17, 2006*

## **Non-Intensive Family Preservation Services Program Grant Application**

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services is pleased to announce the availability of \$450,000.00 for grants to provide Non-Intensive Family Preservation Services (NIFPS) Programs for SFY 2006-2007. Six grants at \$75,000.00 each will be awarded. This Request for Applications solicits response from eligible applicants for grants to be awarded on a limited, competitive basis.

The Adoption and Safe families Act (ASFA) of 1997 reauthorized the Family Preservation and Support Program of 1993 and renamed it the Safe and Stable Families Program. ASFA was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton on November 19, 1997. The law defines and mandates our national goals for children in the child welfare system to be *safety, permanency, and well-being*. The law addresses the realization that all human service systems that impact families need to work in partnership with one another to better meet the needs of both children and their families. The law also promotes eliminating the barriers that exist between children lingering in out-of-home placements and permanency.

Several key principles for implementation promoted by ASFA are:

1. the safety of children is the paramount concern that must guide all child welfare services;
2. foster care is a temporary setting and not a place for children to grow up;
3. permanency planning efforts for children should begin as soon as a child enters foster care and should be expedited by the provision of services to families; and
4. innovative approaches are needed to achieve the goals of safety, permanency, and well-being.

This legislation expands the scope of services to time-limited family reunification services.

### **Non-Intensive Family Preservation Services (NIFPS):**

Non-Intensive Family Preservation Services programs are family-focused interventions that target at-risk families who are *not at imminent risk*. The federal Child and Family Services Review requires that the philosophy underlying prevention services be incorporated across program lines to reduce instances of maltreatment and help children remain in or return safely to their own homes. 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. Programs are required to submit an estimated cost per family of the service provision for cost-benefit data determination. Child abuse and neglect prevention efforts are to be emphasized.

These services models vary in intensity, are delivered in several ways, are provided in or outside the home. NIFPS programs are represented by a broad spectrum of service

models that include mentoring programs, in-home parent education, leadership development, crisis intervention, family reunification, and respite care services. These programs are typically designed to help families alleviate crises that might lead to out-of-home placement of children and to help families in obtaining services and supports to address their multiple needs in a culturally sensitive manner.

Examples of some, but not all, of the NIFPS models to be considered for funding are:

- *Parent Education* – Parent Education services are skill-development and knowledge-building programs that enable parents to develop a more nurturing and supportive environment for their children. Examples include such programs as parent-training classes, child development classes, and parent support groups.
- *Leadership Development* – Leadership Development programs are designed to enhance and develop knowledge and skills for organizing parents to serve in advocacy roles for their families and communities. Participants in leadership development programs learn to access service systems and enhance the system’s ability to serve the local community through their participation on local boards and other policy setting bodies.
- *Respite Care* – Respite services provide temporary child care assistance to parents and other caregivers. Services are usually short term (several hours to a couple of weeks) and target families with children with disabilities and/or special needs.

Applicants should target communities with disproportionate levels of low-income families, school failure, and crime and juvenile delinquency or communities where children are defined as most at-risk for such factors.

Each application must demonstrate a 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 applicant must conduct an initial needs and resources assessment to assess the needs of the target population and to structure the NIFPS program that best meets those needs. The applicant proposal 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 applicant must be able to manage the NIFPS program. Due 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.

**Scope of Services:**

Non-Intensive Family Preservation Services programs shall provide the following services, at a minimum, as outlined in the *Non-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 months
- 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 ten families at any given time
- Specially trained and supported professional staff

**Criteria for Funding:**

Each applicant must fulfill the following requirements:

- Comply with the Policies and Standards established for the state Non-Intensive Family Preservation Program.
- State a commitment to employ staff able to demonstrate the skills and competencies required to provide or supervise NIFPS 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 NIFPS program. The applicant agency must also demonstrate a financial stability that will enable them to receive NIFPS funding on a reimbursement after expenditure basis.
- Show the need for the services in the county. 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;
  - Number of children admitted to training school and detention facilities;
  - Number of children placed in residential treatment in mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse facilities;
  - Other data the indicate trends or increases in out-of-home placement that could be impacted by NIFPS; and
  - 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.

**Address the following items in the proposal:**

1. Discussion of how the NIFPS program enhances the current service delivery system.
2. Description of program design and operations, including:
  - number and qualifications of staff who will provide Non-Intensive Family Preservation Services,
  - intake and referral process for families into the program,
  - collaboration with other agencies in the local service delivery system, including accessing services for families from these agencies,

- how emergency situations will be handled, including arrangements with other agencies for the provision of emergency and back-up services, and
  - service provision termination and follow-up procedures.
3. Discussion of documentation. Programs must maintain individual case records for each client/family. Case records should include, but are not limited to, the following items:
- Date and time of the request for services, the assessment visit, and acceptance for services;
  - Severity of risk which could or did lead to an out-of-home placement, including the number and types of previous placements,
  - Family assessment that includes the family's immediate problems, barriers, needs, strengths, and goals,
  - Detailed services plan signed by the NIFPS worker and family members that specifies both individual and family goals,
  - Documentation of all counseling sessions, including dates, service provider, service recipient, and type of service (e.g., individual, family, group),
  - Progress notes regarding the family's goal attainment toward completion of the service plan,
  - Termination summary, noting the current family situation, goals met, any additional services needs, and referrals made.

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

The state document *Non-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.