

Quality Improvement Centers on Child Protective Services and Adoption Services

BACKGROUND

In fiscal year 2001, under the Adoption Opportunities Program and the Child Abuse and Prevention and Treatment Program, the Children's Bureau awarded cooperative agreements to five organizations to implement regional Quality Improvement Centers (QICs) in the areas of adoption and child protective services (CPS). Four of the QICs (one focusing on adoption and three focusing on CPS) are moving forward.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the QICs is to promote knowledge development with the overarching goal of improving child welfare services. The QICs represent an experiment by the Children's Bureau to examine the feasibility and benefits of increasing regional involvement in designing and managing research and demonstration efforts. Each QIC will also disseminate their findings.

TASKS

The QICs are charged with planning and implementing research or demonstration grants on topics the QICs select with input from a regional advisory group and with federal approval. The QICs collected data and identified a topic during the first year. They will fund, monitor and evaluate research or demonstration projects during years 2 through 4 and disseminate findings during year 5. Required tasks include:

- PHASE I*
- Forming a regional advisory group
 - Conducting a literature review
 - Conducting a needs assessment
 - Selecting a focus topic in conjunction with advisory group members and others
 - Submitting a plan for Phase II (June 2002) and making an oral presentation to federal staff for approval
 - Announcing research or demonstration grants in the region
 - Providing technical assistance to prospective local grantees
- PHASE II*
- Awarding and monitoring the 42-month research or demonstration project grants in the region
 - Providing technical assistance to local grantees
 - Conducting an evaluation of the research and demonstration projects
 - Disseminating findings to practitioners and policymakers (including presentations each year at federal grantee meetings and other conferences and articles in relevant journals)

QIC Regional Advisory Group members include academics/researchers, state/local government representatives, and service providers from each QIC's region.

The QICs are charged with managing local grant projects that allow the QICs to evaluate multiple approaches and/or multi-site interventions on the selected focus topic to ensure that the number of subjects is large enough for a rigorous, methodologically sound implementation and evaluation plan. The evaluations will determine the effectiveness of the evidence-based models and its components or strategies, and findings will guide replication or testing in other settings.

FUNDING

QICs were not to exceed \$175,000 during Phase I. QICs will not exceed \$625,000 per year during Phase II (administrative, management and evaluation proposed budgets may not exceed \$125,500 per year; the remaining \$500,000 is to be allocated to local grantee sites). The grantee must provide at least 10 percent of the total approved administrative cost of the project.

QIC REGIONAL AREAS AND CONTACTS

Each QIC determined its regional boundaries. One QIC defined its region as 1 state; other QICs defined their regions as encompassing 3 to 10 states.

<p><i>AGENCY NAME</i> <i>QIC NAME</i> <i>(TYPE OF QIC)</i></p>	<p><i>REGION</i></p>	<p><i>QIC DIRECTOR(S)</i></p>
<p>American Humane Association Rocky Mountain QIC (CPS) <i>Research Topic:</i> Evaluating programs or practice methods implementing specialized services designed to strengthen families that struggle with both child maltreatment and substance abuse issues.</p>	<p>4 states: AZ, CO, ID, WY</p>	<p>Carol Harper 303-925-9451 carolh@americanhumane.org</p>
<p>University of Kentucky Research Foundation, College of Social Work Southern Regional QIC for Child Protection (CPS) <i>Research topic:</i> Evaluating programs designed to enhance child welfare supervisors' abilities to provide guidance to frontline staff on conducting clinical assessments of families and using assessment data to develop case plans and target service interventions.</p>	<p>10 states: AL, AR, GA, KY, LA, MO, MS, SC, TN, WV</p>	<p>Crystal Collins-Camargo 859-257-5476 Crystal.collins-camargo@uky.edu http://www.uky.edu/SocialWork/trc/indexqic.html</p>
<p>University of Washington School of Social Work, Northwest Institute for Children and Families Frontline Connections (CPS) <i>Research topic:</i> Evaluating promising culturally-appropriate interventions designed to increase the capacity of the system to engage parents, kin, and communities of Native American or African American families involved with CPS due to child neglect.</p>	<p>3 states: AK, OR, WA</p>	<p>Maggie McKenna 206-543-8389 mmckenna@u.washington.edu</p>
<p>United Methodist Services of Virginia QIC on Adoption (Adoption) Evaluating the impact on the adoption of foster children of projects which enhance the structure and practice of the adoption service delivery system through the use of public-private partnerships; adoption staff specialization; and evidence-based practices in assessments and pre and post placement services.</p>	<p>1 state: VA</p>	<p>Tara Pappas 804-353-4461 tpappas@umfs.org Jackie Burgeson 804-353-4461, ext. 1301 jburgeso@umfs.org Anne Atkinson 804-323-6387 http://www.umfs.org/adopt/qica.html</p>