



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

April 1, 2020

Dear State and Tribal Child Welfare Leaders:

I am writing to advise you of updates to two formula grant opportunities that we hope will ease administrative burden as you continue to meet challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kinship Navigator Funding: On February 28, 2020, the Children's Bureau issued Program Instruction [ACYF-CB-PI-20-05](#) providing guidance to state, territorial and tribal title IV-E agencies on the actions required to apply for fiscal year (FY) 2020 funding available under title IV-B, subpart 2 of the Social Security Act (the Act) to support the development, enhancement or evaluation of kinship navigator programs by April 3, 2020. In light of the additional challenges facing child welfare agencies, the Children's Bureau is **extending the deadline for submission of these applications by four weeks until May 1, 2020.**

Family First Prevention Services Act Transition Grants: On February 27, 2020, the Children's Bureau issued Program Instruction [ACYF-CB-PI-20-04](#) providing guidance on the actions required to apply for a one-time Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Transition Grant. The Family First Transition Act authorized and appropriated \$500 million for this new one-time grant to assist with implementation of FFPSA and other child welfare activities. The funding is available to all states, territories and tribes approved to receive grants under title IV-B, subpart 1 of the Act (Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program). Our Program Instruction directed agencies to submit applications for funding by April 30, 2020.

The Children's Bureau initially required a separate application for the funding because this was a new, separately appropriated grant with distinct programmatic reporting requirements. However, in light of the current public health emergency and the increased burdens facing child welfare agencies, the Children's Bureau has determined that **we will not require a separate application for this funding.** Instead, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will proceed to make awards to all eligible grantees as soon as possible. Acceptance of the grant by the agency will indicate its agreement to provide required programmatic and financial reports. Any state or tribe that does not wish to receive its allotment must contact ACF in writing to decline the funds. If this occurs, ACF will reallocate funds to other eligible grantees by formula.

We hope that these additional flexibilities will be helpful to your agencies. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of children and families.

Sincerely,

Jerry Milner
Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau